

## Resistance attacks Israeli proxy militia

TYRE (AP) — Guerrillas said Friday that they killed two pro-Israeli militiamen and wounded four others in an attack in South Lebanon. An Israeli army spokesman confirmed that two South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen were killed in a bomb blast. A statement by the Islamic Resistance said its guerrillas carried out the pre-dawn attack against an SLA outpost in the village of Rahaf on the edge of Israel's self-designated "security zone." The statement did not disclose further details. Israeli and SLA gunners retaliated by shelling the villages of Tibnin, Hadatha and Yater with mortars and heavy machine-gun fire. Police in Tyre, 23 kilometres southwest of the targeted villages, said six people were wounded in the shelling that tapered off at noon. The Islamic Resistance is the military wing of Hizbollah (Party of God). The Israeli army spokesman said the two dead militiamen were off-duty at the time of the blast but did not say what they were doing in the area. He said the SLA responded by shelling "a known guerrilla site" in the area.

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## Seven killed by N. Ireland bomb

BELFAST (R) — Seven people were killed and seven injured on Friday when a bomb ripped through a builder's van on a remote Northern Irish country road, police said. Eyewitnesses said it looked as if the victims were killed by a landmine hidden in a culvert on the Omagh to Cookstown Road in County Tyrone. Ambulances rushed from across the province to the scene of the explosion. Police called for searchlights to comb the area after one of the bloodiest attacks in the 22-year-old Northern Irish conflict. Police confirmed that no British security forces were hurt in the blast. No group admitted responsibility for the blast.

## Violence halts airlift of Sudanese

NAIROBI (AP) — U.N. officials in Ethiopia said Friday they had suspended the transfer of 15,000 Sudanese refugees to safer camps in the nation's southwest after gunmen killed four local project employees. The relocation of the refugees from their current camp in western Ethiopia at Itang to a camp on more fertile land at Dimma, 450 kilometres southeast, was due to begin Friday. Marwan A. Khoury, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, said the programme would go ahead once better security arrangements had been made. When initiated, the transfer could take up to six weeks and would involve using three buses to move 180 refugees a day, said Mr. Khoury.

## Commission regrets blockage of aid

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission said on Friday it regretted the European Parliament's vote to block new aid packages for Morocco and Syria and hoped to find a way out of the impasse soon. The Strasbourg assembly failed to muster an absolute majority for the two accords in a vote on Wednesday because deputies complained about human rights abuses in both countries. Asked about the vote, a spokesman for Commissioner Abel Matutes, who is responsible for Mediterranean policy, told reporters: "Mr. Matutes regrets the situation which prevents the commission from implementing the protocols... he believes and hopes that this will be a temporary and transitory situation and that we will be able to find in the shortest possible time a solution allowing us to end this impasse."

## British photographer killed in Croatia

OSIJEK, Croatia (R) — A British photographer died after being shot by a sniper near this eastern Croatian town on Friday, doctors said. Paul Jenks, who worked for the Frankfurt-based European Press-Photo Agency (EPA), died during surgery at Osijek hospital shortly after he has shot in the head in the village of Josip Dvor. Mr. Jenks, who was single and in his mid-20s, had been covering the Yugoslav conflict for several months. He was from London but was temporarily based in Zagreb.

## France fears old nuclear plants

PARIS (R) — The discovery of cracks inside three elderly French nuclear plants is a sign that the ageing of reactors poses an increasingly serious problem, an official of France's state electricity company said Friday. "It is a sign that the ageing of our (nuclear) power stations will be an increasing concern for us," said Pierre-Yves Tanguy, head of nuclear safety for Electricite de France (EDF). Mr. Tanguy was presenting his annual report on nuclear safety at a news conference. France produces 75 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power but has never had a major accident. Mr. Tanguy ruffled official feathers two years ago when his report noted a growing number of minor incidents and criticised his EDF masters for failing to prevent them. He told reporters on Friday that despite efforts by EDF to eradicate these incidents, little progress was made in 1991.

## Bilaterals end with little substantive progress; may resume Feb. 10

From George Hawatmeh in Washington

THE THIRD ROUND of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks ended in Washington Thursday, having produced agreement on separate Palestinian representation but falling short of achieving any tangible progress on the substantial issues confronting the two sides.

The Arabs were angered by the Israeli delegations' decision to leave early and accused the Israeli government of running away from negotiations that could have narrowed the divide on such crucial issues as the continued building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, self-government rule for the Palestinians under occupation and interpretation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The Israelis, for their part, indicated that responsibility for the lack of progress lay with the Arab delegations who had delayed their arrival in Washington, in protest over recent Israeli actions against the Palestinians — a move that, according to the Israelis, cost the negotiators "valuable time."

"The Israeli argument does not hold water," an Arab delegate commented. "It was obvious to us that the Israelis were stalling, especially on the questions of settlements and self-government rule, especially since what is happening in Israel itself is clear to all."

The four days of talks here were overshadowed, at least in American official and media eyes, by the domestic political crisis in Israel over the peace process. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ultra-right-wing partners have threatened to quit the coalition government over "autonomy" plans for the Palestinians, and it is widely expected that the Shamir cabinet will soon collapse, opening the way for early general elections in the Jewish state.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinians, told reporters: "As the saying goes, you can bring the

horse to water but you can't make him drink... you can bring the Israelis to the negotiating table, but you can't make them negotiate."

"The whole question of settlements is a real test of Israeli intentions and Israeli good faith," she said. Elyakim Rubinstein, the chief Israeli negotiator, said in the talks with Jordanians, "We spoke of our visions of peace," and, "we hope, God willing, that at the end we will reach a peace treaty."

Jordanian chief negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali said his side had proposed returning to Washington on Feb. 10 but that the Israelis, distracted by the possibility of early elections, responded that they needed instructions from their government.

"The Israeli negotiators have assured us that the talks will continue, even if the government resigns," a senior Jordanian delegate told the Jordan Times. "But they were non-committal on whether they will come back to Washington Feb. 10-25 as we have proposed."

A Jordanian spokesman, asked how the future contact will be made, said, "that has not been agreed."

"This question will be discussed between the governments there among themselves and decide on a way to agree on the issue."

According to informed sources, the Israelis wanted to discuss another venue for the talks, and suggested that the negotiators hold their next round closed to the region on the basis of two to three days a week. The suggestion was not readily acceptable to the Arabs, however, and the issue was left for future contacts to resolve.

There have been claims in the U.S. capital over the past two days that American officials had in fact told the Arab side the Israelis would come back for the proposed Feb. 10 round. But State Department spokesman Richard Boucher insisted that the U.S. was neutral on the question of venue and timing for the resumption of the talks.

"Our position of venue is that we're always glad to help out, but this is an issue that essentially we remain neutral on," he told reporters on Thursday. "We've encouraged (the parties) to work out these questions," he said.

In answering a question on whether the U.S. was satisfied with progress of the talks and the political situation in Israel concerning negotiations dealing

with substance, the spokesman said: "We want them to get to the issues, we want them to discuss the substance of the matter, and we've urged to do that from the beginning. But I'm not going to insert myself in the internal political debate within Israel... the parties are engaged in discussions with each other on the differences between them, and we think that's a positive and important development."

Mr. Boucher did not give details about secretary of State James Baker's separate meetings with the Arab and Israeli delegations on Tuesday and Wednesday but described the third round of talks as "important" in that "significant procedural issues were resolved and all of the parties were engaged."

"The key is to remain on course towards achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute," he said in a statement, which was interpreted by Arab delegates and observers as an implicit criticism of the Israeli position on piecemeal solutions and peace treaties.

In their Thursday session with the Jordanian delegation, the Israelis were evidently trying to sell their "piecemeal approach" to the conflict, according to Jordanian delegates.

"In presenting their agenda proposal to us," one delegate said, "the Israeli delegation talked merely about diplomatic relations and cooperation in the various fields such as water and the economy."

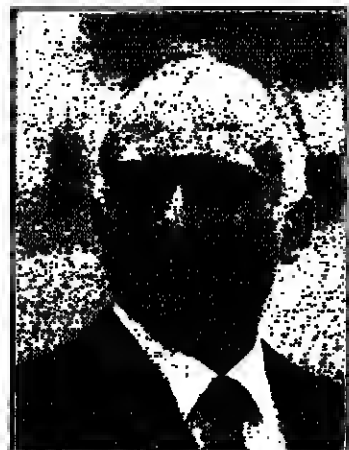
"This is glaringly different from our approach towards the comprehensive solution we want," the delegate said. "Our agenda, which we presented to the Israelis in writing, talked about the interpretation of 242, the settlements as they concern us, and other important issues, such as water and borders."

"Unfortunately, the progress achieved (in the Jordanian-Israeli talks) cannot obscure the fact that we have profound disagreements on the fundamentals of peace," spokesman for the Jordanian delegation Marwan Musharraf told reporters after the Thursday session. "Most notable (of those disagreements) are the settlement issue, which day to day determines the outcome of negotiations, the interpretation of 242 and the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Conventions."

For the first time in memory of warshippers there, articles of the constitution were read out at the mosque — focusing on freedom of movement, belief and prayer.

Mr. Hachani said it was a sign of the authorities' failure that they were prepared to trample on the law.

Mr. Moghani told the crowd seated on prayer mats outside the unfinished mosque it was bizarre that the authorities took the oath on the Koran Thursday and the next day surrounded the mosque with security forces.



## King leaves for Brunei

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein left Amman for Brunei Friday on a private visit. King Hussein is accompanied by Royal Court Chief Adnan Abu Odeh and Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad.

King Hussein was seen off at the airport by their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, several members of the royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisor, the chief chamberlain, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces and the Brunei charge d'affaires in Amman.

## Shamir sees early polls but no hurdle in peace process

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, about to lose his coalition majority in parliament, said on Friday Israel would probably hold early general elections.

He said political instability would not interfere with Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"There are several options but it's almost certain... that we will have to go to early elections," Mr. Shamir told Israel radio and television, adding:

"In any event, my will is to continue the peace process."

Mr. Shamir had been non-committal on an early vote. If parliament agrees to bring forward the elections, now set for November, he would head a caretaker government until then.

Two small far-right parties which gave Mr. Shamir's right-wing government a majority in parliament plan to quit the coalition Sunday in a bid to stop Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The departure of the five members from the Likud-led government would leave Mr. Shamir with only 59 supporters in the 120-seat Knesset (Parliament).

Some of Mr. Shamir's most outspoken left-wing critics in parliament have said they may support him in a minority government as long as progress is made in the peace talks.

But the prime minister ruled out such an alternative.

"I'm not even considering a minority government," he said. Mr. Shamir, who shares far-right opposition to returning any Arab land seized in 1967 war, reluctantly entered U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks in October. The negotiations, which completed a third session in Washington this week, were the first between Israelis and Palestinians.

Mr. Shamir, 76, is anxious to avoid being seen in the United States, Israel's guardian ally, as exploiting the election issue to stall the talks. Congress is due to consider Israel's request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees during the first quarter of this year. President George Bush delayed action last September to prod the Jewish state to the conference table.

The far-right Moledet and Tehiya factions said they were pulling out of the government because limited self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was discussed in the last round of peace talks in Washington which ended on Thursday.

They believe granting any self-rule will lead inevitably to establishment of a Palestinian state and an Israeli withdrawal, developments also opposed by Mr. Shamir.

## Most Americans disapprove of Bush — poll

WASHINGTON (R) — Most Americans disapprove of the way George Bush is doing his job as president, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll. The proportion of Americans who disapprove of Mr. Bush's handling of the job climbed to 52 per cent from 50 per cent a month ago, according to the latest monthly poll. At the same time, Mr. Bush's approval rating was only 45 per cent, down slightly from last month and half the extraordinary 90 per cent he reached at the end of the Gulf war 10 months ago. Citing the recession as a key factor, the poll said 78 per cent of Americans believed the United States was on the wrong track, nearly matching the 79 per cent peak of October 1990 during the debate between the White House and Congress over the budget deficit. Mr. Bush, who faces a challenge for the Republican nomination from conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, still retains strong support in his own party, according to the poll. Seventy-three per cent of Republicans approve of Mr. Bush's handling of the job, while only 26 per cent disapprove.

## Iraq marks anniversary pledging to rebuild army

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein marked the first anniversary of the Gulf war Friday by serving notice he intended to rebuild the once-powerful Iraqi army and again make Iraq a leading Arab power.

President Saddam made his promise on the anniversary of the day one of the most intensive air attacks in history opened the war between Iraq and a U.S.-led multinational alliance which mustered more than 750,000 troops.

Looking relaxed and wearing his field marshal's uniform, the Iraqi president told his sanctions-hit nation that Iraqi forces had been outgunned and outnumbered by forces representing "Satan and treachery."

For the first time President Saddam said that his armed forces, once almost a million strong and the fourth-largest in the world, had been beaten by the 33-nation alliance it faced in the war.

"If we see the confrontation within traditional material and technological considerations," he said, "then the camp of the faithful (Iraq) was defeated."

But Iraq had achieved a moral victory because they had kept their faith. "Today is the day of pride and glory and their (the enemy's) day is worthy of God's wrath," he said.

At the opening of a museum devoted to Iraqi progress in rebuilding the shattered infrastructure, one display table said that 187 "military industry buildings" had been repaired and another 260 damaged military facilities were under construction. U.S. President George Bush reiterated Thursday that his administration would maintain sanctions and "Saddam's regime isolated, a pariah among nations."

But he pledged: "The wounds in the economy will be healed, God willing, and its prosperity will be everlasting... Baghdad will continue furnishing the Arabs with skills, science, technology and economic prosperity, as it did in the past."

"But this needs an arm (armed forces) to protect it."

Stressing the point, he said science and technology must be "coupled with an influential military capability."

Under the terms of the ceasefire which ended the war 42 days after it began, Iraq agreed to destroy its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programmes. Iraqi imports of conventional weapons are banned under United Nations sanctions.

But Iraqi officials have reported progress in repairing military facilities smashed by more than a month of daily bombing raids and missile strikes.

It was his fifth television appearance in a week as part of celebrations to mark "the mother of battles" against "tyrannical aggression."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a separate report that at first light Friday, mosque preachers shouted "Allahu Akbar" in memory of the war's victims while church bells pealed in Christian areas.

The agency said demonstrations were held in Baghdad through the night. The largest was staged at 2.50 a.m. (2330) "Saddam's regime isolated, a pariah among nations."

## 2 Libyans said ready for trial in France

PARIS (AP) — Two Libyan officials wanted by French authorities in connection with the 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner reportedly say they are prepared to stand trial in France.

However, the French foreign ministry said Friday it would continue to push for a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Libya's "lack of cooperation" in the investigations of the UTA bombing and the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Radio France International on Thursday interviewed Libyan vice-foreign Minister Musa Koussa, one of four men named in arrest warrants issued by a French judge. Mr. Koussa expressed his willingness to stand trial in France to assert his innocence in the bombing that killed 170 people over Niger.

"This is a personal decision," he said. "I want to defend myself."

Later, the French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) quoted Abdallah Senoussi, believed to be number two in the Libyan intelligence service and a brother-in-law of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, as saying he too would appear before a French court if necessary.

It was agreed in Vienna that these demands would be closely studied by the United Nations Sanctions Committee, but the feeling was that they do not pose a major problem, except perhaps the quest to increase the allowed amount, another source said.

But Iraq's insistence on expanding the scope of bilateral agreements it might reach with buyers poses a key problem, the source admitted. "Their argument is that the international oil market is not an arena where you surface one day and disappear the next," he said.

"The Iraqis insisted that Iraq be allowed to enter long-term contracts beyond the six-month period set by under

لبنان من الأصل



## Anderson deplores Israeli settlement policy, pledges to influence Congress decision

Former U.S. presidential candidate leads bipartisan fact-finding mission to Mideast

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former American Congressman John Anderson Friday deplored the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territories and called it an obstruction to the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Anderson, who is here leading a fact-finding mission, said the Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories was an open violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people. "It is an obstruction to the peace process and the U.S. government should make it clear that (the U.S.) will take no part in this and cut back on its aid (to Israel)," he told reporters.

Mr. Anderson and 19 other Republican and Democratic delegates visited the occupied territories, Israel, Jordan and Syria as part of a two-track fact-finding mission in the region.

Reports in Israel Radio and Al Nahar newspaper, which Mr. Anderson called "a deliberate campaign of misinformation," said that "in the delegates' opinion, Jews have the right to live in Judea, Samaria (the Israeli-imposed name for the West Bank) and Gaza and that

they are going to present this position to the United States."

"The reports are totally incorrect in attempting to represent my position, and that of the delegation I lead," said Mr. Anderson, who ran in the 1980 presidential election.

Mr. Anderson accused Israeli settlers of adopting terror tactics. "They have literally engaged on tactics that are meant to strike fear (on the Palestinians)," he said.

The United States has a clear role to play in terms of curbing the settlement issue and "the administration and Congress will have the opportunity to act (in this context) on the (Israeli) request for the \$10 billion loan guarantee," Mr. Anderson said.

Other members of the delegation affirmed that they would make concerted efforts to influence congressional decisions on the loan guarantee issue between now and the time Congress votes on the Israeli bid. Mr. Anderson said he would address the National Democratic Women's Club in Washington, D.C. "If we want the world to be based on justice, then we have to make speeches so that the media will report on them and

spread (this viewpoint)," he said.

Mr. Anderson said that the delegation members spoke to various Palestinians and Israelis and found that "there are Israelis who think the policies of the government are wrong."

According to a poll, 40 per cent of the Israelis thought that territory should be given up "in return for peace," Mr. Anderson pointed out.

Speaking of the peace process, Mr. Anderson said that the question of autonomy for Palestinians cannot be ignored.

"But it has to be a defined autonomy which means self-government, the right of the people to control their land and self-determination," he said adding that there was some evidence of progress in the current Arab-Israeli talks.

"I think some progress has been made in getting to substantive issues. They are gaining grounds inch by inch," Mr. Anderson said.

It is Mr. Anderson's second known Middle East peace mission. The first visit to the region was a "peace pilgrimage" along with senior members of various U.S. churches and Jewish groups as well as politicians in May 1990.

## Kuwaiti women march on anniversary of Gulf war

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti women marched through quiet city streets on Friday to commemorate the start one year ago of the war which liberated their country from seven months of Iraqi occupation.

Carrying yellow banners thanking the U.S.-led allied armies and chanting slogans calling for the release of missing Kuwaitis believed held in Iraq, they took the same route of two women's protest marches held during the occupation.

"I will not forget that day (last Jan. 17). We were screaming and dancing, we didn't want the sounds of bombs falling to stop — it was like a symphony," Sarar Al Sayegh, a headmistress, told Reuters.

"We walked here the first time during the occupation with Iraqi soldiers watching — we want to remember that march and to walk again for the return of our POWs (prisoners of war)," business woman Badriya Al Mufarej, 40, said.

Only about 50 women, wearing traditional black abayas or track suits, attended the march around the Kazma football stadium in the Al-Adilaya residential suburb.

No official events were scheduled to mark the start of the six-week war which ended last Feb. 28.

But mosques in city centres were packed, with people praying in the streets outside to give thanks for the success of the conflict. Preachers called on devotees to remember the importance of the day.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry accused Iraq on Friday of continuing to violate United Nations ceasefire resolutions, especially concerning border posts in the poorly marked frontier between the two states.

"The Iraqi regime is still procrastinating in implementing international resolutions, including those dealing with (border) demarcation and the release of more than 2,000 detainees," the Kuwaiti News Agency quoted a senior official as saying.

Yellow-ribbon reminders of the missing adorn public balls and are painted on Kuwaiti airlines.

Jean-Philippe Lavoie, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kuwait, believes many of the missing may be dead. Hundreds could still be held in Iraqi prisons, but the ICRC had no way of checking because they were not allowed to visit places of detention inside Iraq, he said.

"I think all the time about our POWs. I know they must be very cold and I wonder how they sleep," Nada Sulaiman, research planner at Kuwait University, said.

"I believe most of them are killed. The world has forgotten them but we want confirmation of their fate," business woman Altai Al Sultan said.

U.N. troops patrol a demilitarised zone on the frontier but people wandering too close to Iraqi posts are sometimes captured and people seeking a better life frequently slip into Kuwait. Two Kuwaiti policemen were seized last week.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ogaden famine threat seen

LONDON (R) — The British Red Cross said on Friday that a combination of drought and tribal conflict in Ethiopia's Ogaden region could bring a repeat of a 1984 famine which killed thousands. It quoted a field worker as saying that fighting broke out when rival political parties started recruiting supporters after the fall last May of Mengistu Haile Mariam's Marxist government. The disturbances, after six years of drought, made it difficult to move relief supplies by road. Children were eating grass. Malnutrition, malaria and diarrhoea were taking a rising toll, the British Red Cross statement said. It quoted the Ethiopian Red Cross as saying that thousands could die in the next few months. Red Cross sources said relief agencies have given early warning that drought might affect up to 5.6 million people in the area this year. An accurate death toll for the 1984 famine is not available but some estimates reach around 250,000, they said.

### FAO: Screwworm threat eliminated

ROME (AP) — Inspections of millions of animals and tens of thousands of flies indicates the new world screwworm infestation in North Africa has been eradicated, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) said Thursday. The parasite of all warm-blooded animals had never been seen outside the Americas until it appeared in Libya in 1988, apparently on sheep imported from South America. FAO said it left unchecked, the screwworm could have spread throughout Africa, the Mediterranean and into Asia and the Pacific. However, it said during the last three months of 1991 Libyan experts inspected 8.4 million animals, ran quarantine checks on 252,000 more and conducted laboratory examinations of 89,000 trapped flies and found no evidence of the screwworm. Dr. Patrick Cunningham, the director of FAO's screwworm emergency centre for North Africa, said experts also did not find any evidence of the parasite in Tunisia, Egypt and Sudan. The eradication programme used the sterile insect technique that has rid the United States and Mexico of the pest. FAO said every week for more than six months 40 million screwworm flies were sterilised at a plant in Mexico, flown to Libya and dispersed over the infested area. Female flies that mated with the imported, sterile males produced sterile eggs. The programme was scheduled to run for two years and cost \$91 million in international funds. However, FAO said it was completed in one year at a cost of about \$40 million. It said Libya will have to spend about \$33 million of its own money by the close of the campaign. Precautionary inspections of animals in Libya and neighbouring countries will continue until at least June, FAO said.

### Norway lets Palestinians stay

OSLO (R) — Norway said on Friday it was giving residence permits to 17 of 19 Palestinians who created a stir when they were interrogated by Israeli agents after applying for political asylum here last year. "We turned down their requests for asylum but the 17 can stay in Norway," said Terje

Sjeggstad, deputy head of the directorate of immigration. Of the other two, one man was turned down because of suspected links to a guerrilla movement, and the other withdrew his request. The 19 were part of a group of 180 Palestinians who applied for asylum in Norway during the Gulf crisis. Norway's former chief of intelligence, Svein Urdal, resigned last year after admitting Norway had let agents of Israel's Mossad help question the 19, who had said they were defectors from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

### British secretary to visit Gulf

LONDON (R) — British Defence Secretary Tom King leaves on Saturday for a visit to the Gulf to discuss future military cooperation. The Defence Ministry said Mr. King would have talks with government leaders in Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and would also visit a British navy ship on patrol in the Gulf. Mr. King said: "Regular contact with our friends in the Gulf is an essential part of sustaining our excellent relations in the area. There are a number of important regional and bilateral issues that I hope to discuss with senior members of the respective governments." The visit, which ends in the middle of next week, comes a year after the allied coalition, which included British forces, launched its offensive to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

### Sudanese envoy in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Medhi Ibrahim, a member of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council, arrived in Iran, the latest in a flurry of exchanges aimed at cementing ties between the two Muslim nations. Tehran Radio said Mr. Ibrahim was carrying a message from Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir for Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. The radio did not disclose the contents of the message. It said Mr. Ibrahim was received at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Deputy foreign minister Hossein Sheikholeslam. Mr. Rafsanjani visited Khartoum last month, on his way back from an Islamic conference in Dakar, Senegal. The visit underlined the importance of improving ties with Sudan. During Mr. Rafsanjani's visit, Western newspapers reported Iran was attempting to gain a foothold in Sudan in an effort to export its radical Islamic revolution. The reports said Tehran had agreed to supply arms and military training to Sudan in hopes that the country will replace Lebanon as a base for Iranians. Iranian officials have denied those reports.

### Israel probes missile developer

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police are investigating the former manager of a state plant developing an anti-missile missile over his ties to a foreign firm, officials at Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) said Friday. They said Dov Raviv, who was in charge of developing the Arrow missile at IAI's MLM electronics plant, was sacked last month after police found he was working for a foreign company without permission from IAI. The Arrow missile is being developed under the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, better known as Star Wars.

## U.S. bombers in Gulf fired secret missile

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defence Department has disclosed that B-52 bombers attacked Iraq in the opening moments of Operation Desert Storm with a new type of cruise missile whose very existence until now had been kept secret.

Seven B-52s from the second wing of the Eighth Air Force, armed with the cruise missiles, took off from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, at 7:35 a.m. EST on Jan. 16, 1991. They fired 33 of the guided missiles at high-priority targets inside Iraq in what the Pentagon called the longest air combat mission in history.

It was known that B-52s dropped tonnes of gravity bombs on Iraqi ground forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq throughout the Gulf war, but the Jan. 16 mission was secret. It lasted 35 hours and covered 14,000 miles with four aerial refuellings.

Pete Williams, Pentagon spokesman, told reporters the B-52s were the first planes launched in the war. Until now, it had been believed, based on acknowledged U.S. warplane missions, that F-117A Stealth fighter-bombers which attacked downtown Baghdad were the first to kick off the air campaign.

Mr. Williams said he could not fully explain why the U.S. government waited a full year to disclose the B-52s' mission from Barksdale and the use of the new missiles.

Air force ceremonies were scheduled for Friday at Barksdale to recognise the men and women who contributed to the historic

flight.

Mr. Williams said the mission initially was kept secret because the existence of the missiles was classified. One reason for the delay in disclosing it after the war's end was "the sheer heft of bringing" a secret weapon out of secrecy, he said.

The non-nuclear missile, dubbed the AGM-86C, is a modified version of a nuclear-armed cruise missile that also can be fired by B-52 bombers. Boeing Aerospace, which made the nuclear version, did the modification for \$380,000 per missile, Mr. Williams said. He would not say how many exist.

Mr. Williams said work on the non-nuclear version began in June 1986. The missile, with a high-explosive warhead, was ready in January 1988. The main difference between the two missiles, besides the warhead, is that the non-nuclear version had a more advanced guidance system, Mr. Williams said.

The Pentagon previously had acknowledged that cruise missiles launched from submarines and surface ships were fired at Iraq in the early days of the war.

Mr. Williams said he could not describe the effectiveness of the air-launched cruise missiles used against Iraq except to say that the air force considered them "very effective."

The 35 missiles were fired at eight "high priority" targets, including power generation and transmission facilities and military communications sites inside Iraq, Mr. Williams said. He would not be more specific.

## Iraq pledges

(Continued from page 1)

GMT Thursday) outside the Information Ministry, with thousands of demonstrators pledging loyalty to President Saddam.

The crowds denounced President Bush and his allies as "bestial aggressors" and chanted: "Bush, Bush, listen well, we all love Saddam Hussein."

Washington recently has been once more urging Iraqis to topple President Saddam to bring the international embargo on Iraq to an end.

President Saddam depicted the U.S.-led Operation Desert Storm in his speech as a "showdown between believers and infidels."

He said the allies launched the war to destroy Iraq's "scientific and technological superiority."

U.N. inspectors, sent to Iraq after the war to oversee the dismantling of its arsenal of mass-destruction weapons, determined that it was much closer to building nuclear weapons than had been thought.

U.N. officials disclosed that Iraq's uranium-enrichment programme could have produced enough material to make four nuclear bombs a year.

President Saddam said that coalition forces carried out 114,000 air raids during the war. The allies said they flew 109,876 sorties, 60 per cent by the Americans.

"In this insolent aggression, they dropped on Iraq, its armed forces, its children, women and elderly the equivalent of 108,000 tons of explosives," President Saddam said.

"The destructive power of these explosives was equal to six nuclear bombs like those which the Americans dropped on Hiroshima or Nagasaki in Japan" Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945.

## Syrian and Israeli delegates find unusual common ground — religion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Assad Asaad is a colonel in the Israeli military and a member of the Israeli negotiating team to peace talks with Syria.

Majid Abu Saleh is a senior diplomat in the Syrian Foreign Service. He sits across the negotiating table from Col. Asaad.

Despite their differences, the two men are bound by an almost mystic connection that far transcends the deep-rooted enmity between their countries.

They are of the Druze faith, which adheres to an Islamic-based creed so secret that only the turbaned community elders know all its tenets. The fundamentals of the Druze belief centre on reincarnation. Its prophet is Jethro, brother-in-law of Moses.

But even though these two men faced each other during the three days of Middle Eastern peace talks this week, not a link, not a word passed between them.

The Syrians generally have maintained a stern demeanor, shunning joint coffee breaks and any attempts at small talk, although an occasional smile was in evidence as the number of meetings grew, according to Israeli participants.

Nonetheless, said Col. Asaad, he did not want to risk embarrassing Mr. Abu Saleh by offering to shake his hand or speaking to him. He said Mr. Abu Saleh refused to look him in the eye across the State Department conference table.

The Syrian delegation turned down several requests to interview Mr. Asaad, who serves as Syria's ambassador to Jordan.

But despite the barriers between them, Col. Asaad said he felt kinship with his Syrian counterpart.

"Every Druze feels this feeling of brotherhood and solidarity, no matter where he lives," Col. Asaad said.

Col. Asaad said he knows members of Mr. Abu Saleh's family in the occupied Golan Heights and would tell them he had seen their relative in Washington.

Some 15,000 Druze live on the Golan.

The Golan Druze occasionally are allowed to visit relatives in Syria — where some 400,000 to 500,000 members of the sect live — but they communicate mostly by shouting to each other through loudspeakers on the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire line.

Syrian ceasefire line.

Druze regard themselves as citizens of whatever country they were born in — Syria, Lebanon, Israel or Jordan, said Col. Asaad.

Col. Asaad commanded a brigade in the Israeli army. "If the Jews allow a Druze to command and protect Jewish lives, that shows we are fully integrated," he said.

Unlike Israel's Arab minority, whose members do not serve in the military, Israeli Druze get drafted like Jews at age 18.

Col. Asaad, who serves as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's advisor on Druze affairs, plans to run for parliament on the Likud ticket — not because he adheres to the party's hawkish ideology but because he feels Likud has promoted the domestic interests of his sect.

Col. Asaad said he plans to tell the Syrians at one of the next sessions that minorities in Israel enjoy full equality — on paper, at least.

"I won't paper over the problems," Col. Asaad said. "But I'll tell them that we, as minorities, can deal with our problems by shouting and demonstrating and cursing the government."

## Mubarak rescinds book seizure by Al Azhar

CAIRO (AP) — In an unprecedented move, President Hosni Mubarak has overturned a decision by Egypt's highest Muslim institute to impound seven religious books.

The author of five of the books is Mohammad Saeed Al Ashmawy, a noted writer on Islam and a prominent judge.

An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the action by Al Azhar's Islamic Research Academy last week "was illegal because it is not within Al Azhar's authority to confiscate books."

Al Azhar, founded more than 1,000 years ago, is the Muslim World's highest theological authority. The Islamic Research Academy is one of its departments. The head of Al Azhar, appointed by the government, holds the administrative rank of minister.

Never before in republican Egypt's 35-year history has a president countermanded an action by Al Azhar.

Last month, little-known novelist Alaa Hamid and two others, his publisher and printer, were sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by a state security court. Based on a reading by the Islamic Research Academy, the court found Mr. Hamid's novel, "A Distance in a Man's Mind," blasphemous against Islam and other religions.

Mr. Mubarak refused to interfere on Mr. Hamid's behalf, saying "I cannot forget the law." But he said the case was under review by two committees of jurists at the prime minister's office.

The senior official said Mr. Mubarak's repeal of Al Azhar's latest action differed from the Hamid case because "it was not a court ruling."

"Books can be confiscated only by the president of the prime minister or a final court ruling," the official told the Associated Press.

The seven books were pulled from display shelves at Cairo's 24th International Book Fair on orders of academy representatives who made an inspection tour. All are back on display.

Mr. Ashmawy's books had been on the market for years. One, titled Political Islam, takes issue with Muslim extremists who advocate violent government takeovers.

Mr. Ashmawy, 58, heads a Cairo criminal court and a state security tribunal similar to the one that convicted Mr. Hamid. Those courts were formed under an emergency law imposed in 1981 after Muslim extremists assassinated Mr. Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

That law empowers the president or prime minister to confiscate publications.

Mr. Hamid's conviction worried Cairo's literary elite. A government-owned magazine complained that book censorship by Muslim clerics threatened the activities of Spain's 13th-century inquisition tribunals.

An editorial in the government-owned weekly Al-Musawwar took to task the Islamic Research Academy for "daily raids" at the book fair.

"We must rectify the situation because it affects the cultural production of the Egyptian mind and opens the door to many excesses that we can do without," it said.

But Al Nour, a Muslim fundamentalist weekly, defended Al Azhar's decision in a front-page commentary Wednesday and demanded that the impounded books' authors be tried.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 72111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Tortues Ninja

18:30 La Famille Fontaine

19:00 News in French

19:15 News in Hebrew

19:30 News in Arabic

19:45 American Funniest Home Videos

20:00 Q.E.D.

20:15 News in English

22:30 Feature film: "Jelly and Hyde"

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr

06:30 Sunrise (Shafiq) Dubai

11:42 Dhahr

14:28 Asr

16:52 Maghreb

18:14 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweethill, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440

St. In the Salla Church Tel. 661757

Transfiguration Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 68326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654922

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

Min/Max Temp.

Amman 7/18

Aqaba 9/18

Deserta 2/11

Jordan Valley 9/16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 17 Humidity readings:

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 68326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654922

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

Min/Max Temp.

Amman 7/18

Aqaba 9/18

Deserta 2/11

Jordan Valley 9/16

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 17 Humidity readings:

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 95 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidh 736123

Dr. Issam Al Asmar 890504

Dr. Saad Al 788285

Dr. Hikmah Kawan 780286

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salim pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 649495

St. Michael's pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Abdul Hameed Gharaibeh (—)

Al Shura' pharmacy (278625)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mubashir Hijwaji (—)

Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 896350

Public Security Department 630221

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816/6

Akheh Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malles, J. Amman 636140

Palatine, St. Michael's 661714

St. Michael's Hospital 777012

University Hospital 845945

Al-Mushter Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 661164

Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777012

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/30

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

ZARQA NATIONAL HOSPITAL (09)900560

Bo Sina Hospital (09)980732

Al-Hikmah Hospital (09)99099

PRINCESS SUMMA HOSPITAL (02)275525

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275

The Al-Nasra Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

9:00 Damascus (RJ)

9:30 Doha (RJ)

9:30 Cairo (RJ)

9:40 New Delhi (RJ)

9:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

9:45 Colombo (RJ)

10:20 Beirut (RJ)

10:30 London (RJ)

10:35 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

10:35 Tripoli (RJ)

10:35 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Sanaa (Y)

12:15 Rome, Beirut (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)

10:35 Brussels, London (RJ)

11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:45 Geneva, Paris (RJ)

11:50 Rome, Madrid (RJ)

20:00 Jeddah (RJ)

20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

21:00 Sanaa, Doha (RJ)

22:45 Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Paris (AF)

06:15 Beirut (ME)

13:00 Sanaa (Y)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (red) 300/300

Apple (yellow) 300/300

Banana 300/450

Banana (Mukammal) 350/500

Beans 350/500

Cabbage 170/120

Carrot 170/120

Cauliflower 320/260

Cumbers (large) 250/200

Cumbers (small) 600/500

Eggplant 200/150

Garlic 340/300

Grapefruit 180/120

Lemon 180/120

Marrow (large) 200/150

Marrow (small) 350/300

Onion (dry) 180/120

Onion (green) 180/120

Oranges 420/250

Pepper (hot) 600/500

Pepper (sweet) 450/400

Potato 340/300

Radish 120/80

Sage 600/500

Spinach 200/150

Tomato 420/360



## Teachers learn importance of playing with students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Canadian Development Agency is financing and sponsoring a 10-day workshop on education through play which has been organised in conjunction with the Princess Sarvati College in Amman.

Participants in the workshop, which was opened here Thursday, include 70 teachers employed at nurseries and kindergartens discussing topics related to teaching the young generation through useful games, reading stories and other means.

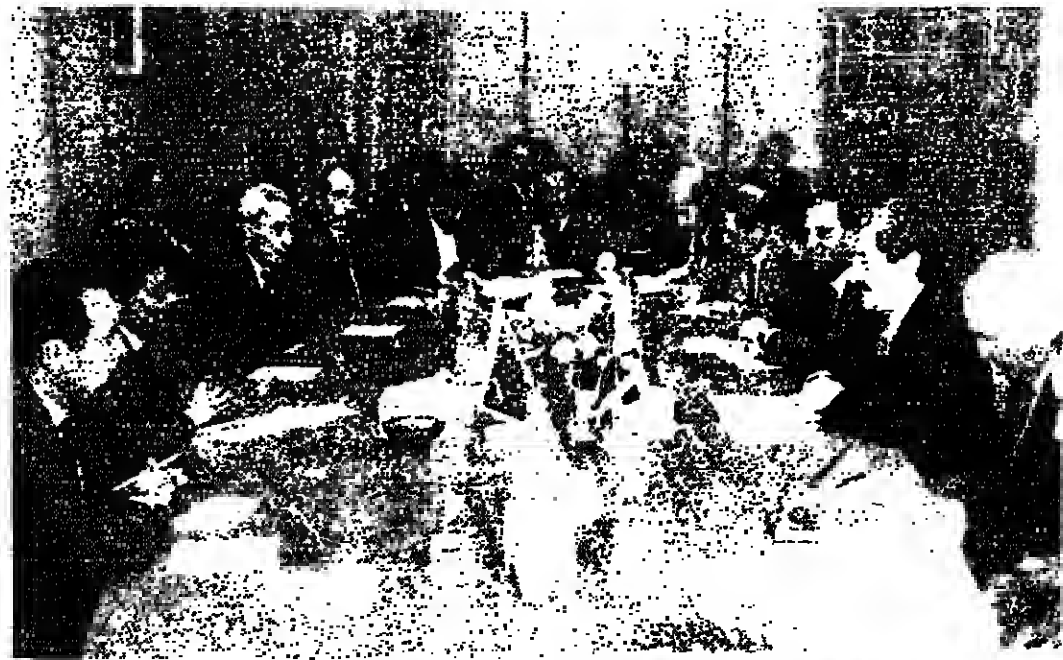
The workshop was addressed by Canada's ambassador to Jordan, Percy Sherwood, who said his country was concerned with meeting the needs of developing nations, especially in education and culture. The Canadian government gives due concern to promoting joint educational programmes in the developing countries, the ambassador noted.

According to Dr. Raghad Shreim, the college's dean, the workshop was aimed at promoting the skills and the efficiency of teachers at a time when Jordan was directing increased attention towards child growth and education.

Qualified and skilled teachers are required to impart appropriate education to young boys and girls at the kindergarten level and there is need for Jordanian colleges and universities to dedicate more attention towards research in this field, Dr. Shreim noted.

Dr. Shreim said that the workshop was needed to upgrade the skills and the standards of teachers at the kindergarten level, noting that the three days of the workshop will be dedicated helping the teachers of the Princess Sarvati College.

The participants in the workshop come from various kindergartens in Amman.



Jordanian delegates, headed by Abdullah Ensour, hold talks with their Libyan counterparts on ways to increase trade and exchanges between the two countries (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Libya set up four committees to help promote exchanges, ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Libyan delegation led by Dr. Ibrahim Abu Khuzam, the minister of higher education, is continuing talks today with Jordanian ministers and officials aimed at promoting economic, technical, cultural and scientific cooperation between Libya and the Kingdom.

Dr. Abu Khuzam opened the talks in Amman on Thursday with Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour. A report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two sides are expected to sign an agreement on bilateral cooperation and exchanges at the conclusion of the Libyan delegation's five-day visit to Jordan.

Petra said that the talks aim at increasing the volume of trade between the two sides, launching joint economic, industrial, commercial and touristic ventures and operating a regular shipping line between Aqaba and Libyan sea ports.

The two sides agreed in their initial meeting Thursday to set up four joint committees to deal with

economic, and commercial affairs, labour and workers employment, education and culture and a fourth committee to draft the other three committees' findings.

Dr. Ensour lauded the existing ties between Jordan and Libya, noting that Jordan has been striving to ensure integration among Arab states leading to pan-Arab unity. Jordan, the minister said, was looking towards marketing its national products in Libyan markets.

Jordan's economy has been shouldering a heavy burden due to the Gulf crisis and the return to Jordan of thousands of expatriates, the minister noted.

Dr. Abu Khuzam said that his country was striving to promote trade with Jordan, calling on Jordanian businesses to offer facilities aimed at attracting Libyan importers of Jordanian products.

The Libyan minister voiced appreciation of Jordan's supportive stand to Libya stressing that Tripoli was determined to defend

itself in the face of foreign aggression and threats. He was referring to U.S. and other Western countries' threats to Libya, which has been accused of involvement in the downing of a Pan Am aircraft over Scotland in 1988.

Dr. Khuzam is accompanied by 18 Libyan officials specialising in economic financial, cultural and educational affairs.

Jordan's support for Libya was displayed in its attendance of an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) extraordinary meeting held in Tripoli in the past week.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said that the Arab parliamentarians discussed current threats levelled at Libya and unanimously voiced support for Tripoli. Dr. Arabiyat, who returned home Thursday, said that the APU was launching a worldwide campaign in support of Libya and calling for a neutral judicial council to take charge of the case.

cluding international human rights charters and declarations. Both Mr. Khalifa and Mr. Thneibat called on the Arab and Muslim Nations to support Iraq in helping it overcome its ordeal. They also called for sending food and medical supplies to the Iraqi people, who are suffering from shortages of food and medicine.

"We gather here today to denounce the American-Atlantic aggression against a brotherly Muslim nation and to remember the courageous stand of Iraq in the face of the imperialists," said Mr. Khalifa.

"The Muslim nation and its people, whether in Iraq, Algeria or other countries, are besieged by America and its allies while Arab rulers are silently watching," he said.

Mr. Khalifa's 20-minute speech was often interrupted by shouts of Allahu Akbar, by an estimated 600 protesters.

Mr. Khalifa and Mr. Thneibat pointed out that thousands of Iraqi children, women and old people face death as a result of the shortage of food and medicine. With this situation in mind,

the wealthy Arabs and Muslims should provide the necessary assistance to the Iraqi people, who are now suffering as a result of the economic sanctions still imposed on that Arab and Muslim country, Mr. Khalifa and Mr. Thneibat said.

Mr. Thneibat accused the West of instigating the crisis in Algeria in order to prevent fundamentalists from taking power.

"The West has gone mad when it saw an Islamic regime emerging in Algeria and conspired to create this crisis," Mr. Thneibat said.

"I assure you that we now have greater hope and faith that Islam will emerge victorious and will spread all over the world," he said.

Meanwhile, a group of 100 unionists gathered at the main offices of the United Nations in Amman urging the world body to lift the sanctions against Iraq.

The protesters, shouting pro-Iraqi slogans, delivered a letter to the U.N. representative in Jordan addressed to Secretary General Butros Ghali asking that the sanctions be lifted.

The Jordanian markets can be considered as a means for promoting the sale of Sudanese products in neighbouring Arab countries, Mr. Saleh said in a statement following the conclusion of a \$70 million trade deal between Khartoum and Amman.

Mr. Saleh, who Friday left for home, urged Jordanian investors to launch ventures in Sudan, especially in the agricultural fields where they would have facilities.

According to the terms of the agreement, 47 Jordanian items will be exempted from customs duty in Sudan while 34 others will be exempted from 50 per cent of the duty. Altogether, Jordan will

market 144 types of national products in Sudan against 43 types of Sudanese products.

Mr. Saleh signed the deal with Dr. Rima Huneidi, director general of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC), who later said the deal will offer further facilities for the marketing of Jordanian products in Sudan with pay settlements to be made in local currency.

The JCCC will launch a campaign to promote the sale of Jordan's industrial products, especially through a fair trade to be held in Khartoum this year.

Sudan earlier this month held a weeklong trade exhibition here to promote the sale of Sudanese national products. The value of displayed products, according to Dr. Huneidi, was \$600,000.

Mr. Saleh and his accompanying delegation left Amman Friday for home at the end of their visit to Jordan and were seen off by Jordanian officials as well as Sudan's Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Jubara.

## 10-hour marathon session averts strike between JEPSCO, workers

By Nidal M. Ibrahim  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Union of Electricity Workers Friday called off a scheduled strike after 10 hours of negotiations during which two ministers mediated and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker twice stepped in to resolve differences.

In the agreement, union officials and management representing the Jordan Electricity Power Company (JEPSCO) agreed in principle that the workers would receive a pay increase which would total JD 300,000 yearly, according to Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, who stepped in to mediate the dispute along with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb.

"The obstacle was the amount of increase and the way it should be distributed," Mr. Kabarti said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "The company felt it should be distributed equally and the union felt it should somehow give more to the lower paid workers."

Originally, the union had demanded that JEPSCO grant employees a raise totalling JD 750,000, including benefits,

he said. In addition, the union demanded that the company pay for workers social security contributions.

JEPSCO officials countered with a raise package totalling JD 140,000. After Ministry of Labour officials intervened, the union lowered its demand to a package totalling JD 416,000, Mr. Kabarti said. But JEPSCO officials still maintained that they could not offer more than the JD 140,000 package. After lengthy negotiations, company officials were persuaded to increase the package to JD 300,000, Mr. Kabarti said.

The union, also after lengthy deliberations with union officials, was persuaded to agree to the compromise package. "We made it very clear we would not permit this strike and I would have to decide on referring the whole matter to court," Mr. Kabarti said of negotiations with union officials. "I told them I will be forced to take legal action against strikers should this happen."

Union President Walid Khayyat said workers were eager to reach an agreement with the company in resolving the dispute. "The union is committed to this agreement out of its keen interest and in response to a call by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and

members of the Cabinet, particularly the ministers of labour and energy," he said.

"The agreement is considered as a beginning of a new relationship between the union and JEPSCO management," Mr. Khayyat added.

Mr. Kabarti said that Sharif Zeid twice intervened in the last 48 hours to "iron out some technical differences." He declined to reveal what aspects the prime minister discussed with the two parties.

The final agreement reached calls for the company to offer a package totalling JD 300,000 yearly, including all payments that should be paid to social security, saving accounts, insurance and other matters. The estimated cost of these benefits is about 26 per cent of the JD 300,000, or JD 78,000, leaving about JD 222,000 to be distributed to workers in the form of raises, Mr. Kabarti said.

Despite the agreement, one final point remains to be resolved, union officials said. Specifically, there is disagreement between management and the union over how the raises should be distributed. While the company proposes to distribute the raises fairly across the board, the union wants to lower paid workers in the company to receive the bulk of the money.

As a result, a Joint Cooperation Committee comprising management and union officials has been created to determine the best way to distribute the money, Mr. Khayyat said.

JEPSCO officials had refused to meet the union's demand for raises, saying the company could not afford to give employees a raise totalling JD 750,000 as the union was demanding.

Mr. Khayyat, however, maintained that the company could easily raise the funds, suggesting that the imposition of a one fil per kilowatt of power consumed by subscribers would raise about JD 1.6 million.

While JEPSCO officials could not be reached for comment, Mr. Kabarti stressed that no agreement was made by which the government will allow the company to raise electricity bills to its subscribers. "We made no promises whatsoever," Mr. Kabarti said. "The only promise I made myself is that whenever there is a meeting in the Cabinet to discuss the problems of the energy sector, I will somehow present the financial aspect of the company."

Soll, Mr. Kabarti said, he would not propose that JEPSCO be allowed to raise its fees.

## Absolute poverty rate in Kingdom stands at 22 per cent, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Suqour Friday said that 22 per cent of the population live in absolute poverty while 3 per cent live close to the point of starvation.

Mr. Suqour, who was the guest speaker of weekly programme hosted by the Arab Youth Forum (AYF), said the figures he came up with on the poverty in Jordan were derived from a field study covering random samples of Jordanian families.

The study was based on basic individual needs, which differ

from one category to another. The study found that almost 22 per cent of the people are living in absolute poverty, while those who are near the starvation mark are close to 3 per cent.

Last March, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a study on poverty in Jordan, entitled "Jordanian Children in the Eye of the Storm."

The study concluded that one out of three people in Jordan live below the poverty line (below JD 89 a month). The study, which covered random samples from all parts of Jordan, said that 30 per

cent of the Jordanian people live under the poverty line.

The study was criticised by the Ministry of Social Development, which said the figure was exaggerated. Dr. Suqour himself contended that the findings of the UNICEF study are not based on accurate and scientific information.

The UNICEF study was undertaken in late 1990, but its findings were not revealed until March 1991.

Less than a year following the study, Jordanian officials including Dr. Suqour, confirmed

the UNICEF findings and even exceeded the figures contained in the UNICEF study, which said that the Gulf crisis, contributed to increasing the number of poverty-stricken families from 23 per cent in 1988 to 30 per cent in 1990. The study also said that the number of families living in absolute poverty rose to 5 per cent.

Dr. Suqour called for addressing the poverty problem through addressing such issues as rising unemployment, population growth, education, training, rising prices as well as the policies on subsidies.

## Syrian official arrives for talks on housing sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Minister of Housing Mohammad Noor Intabi today arrives here at the head of a Syrian delegation to take part in the joint Jordanian-Syrian Public Works and Housing Committee meetings.

Mr. Intabi will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Saad Hayel Surour, on scopes of developing bilateral cooperation in the areas of housing and public works. The committee will discuss a number of issues, including the design of roads, future requirements for developing roads, methods followed in implementing road construction and effects of axial loads on roads.

Talks will also dwell on the contracting sector and development of residential areas with poor services.

## Muslim Brotherhood protests Gulf war in anniversary rally

By Staff and Agency Dispatches

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood group on Friday protested the allied attack launched a year ago to force Iraq to relinquish Kuwait and urged Arab countries to intercede with international circles to help lift U.N. sanctions against Baghdad.

In a rally at an Amman mosque following noon prayers, the powerful Muslim Brotherhood movement also accused Western nations of "continued aggression against Muslims in Algeria."

The rally coincided with the first anniversary of the Gulf war, which the U.S.-led multinational coalition launched the night of Jan. 16-17, 1991 to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Abdul Rahman Khalifa, head of the Jordanian chapter of the Muslim Brotherhood, and member Abdul Majid Al Thneibat condemned the economic sanctions on Iraq, saying that such sanctions are in violation of international charters and laws, in-

## Council again evaluates country's readiness to deal with storms

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Defence Council, which is in charge of coordinating the work of various concerned departments dealing with the consequences of weather conditions or natural disasters, convened again Thursday for the second time in a week to revise plans to deal with any emergencies stemming from severe weather conditions.

Emerging from the meeting, Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul, who chaired the meeting, told Jordan Television that he wanted to assure citizens about precautionary measures that had been taken to deal with any emergency. He said that all the concerned departments were ready to carry out their tasks

under severe weather conditions in providing assistance and relief to the public when needed.

Each council reported on the preparedness of his department which, the minister said, would be functioning under the directives of governors in each region.

Attending the meeting were the directors general of the Public Security Department (PSD) and the Civil Defence Department (CDD), which were instrumental in providing assistance and relief to those stranded or cut off during the past snowstorm, especially in the south.

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology reported that an improvement in the weather condition will begin today.

## Trade agreement beneficial to Jordan, Sudan, officials say

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has agreed to import Sudanese sugar and meat for Jordanian markets starting this year and Sudan will offer facilities for Jordanian national products to be marketed in Sudan, according to Mr. Rima Huneidi, director general of the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC), who later said the deal will offer further facilities for the marketing of Jordanian products in Sudan with pay settlements to be made in local currency.

The JCCC will launch a campaign to promote the sale of Jordan's industrial products, especially through a fair trade to be held in Khartoum this year.

Sudan earlier this month held a weeklong trade exhibition here to promote the sale of Sudanese national products. The value of displayed products, according to Dr. Huneidi, was \$600,000.

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market 144 types of national products in Sudan against 43 types of Sudanese products.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Art exhibition by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan and Italian ambassador to Jordan Franco de Courten at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.

★ Exhibition of the activities of the Goethe Institute in Amman at the Institute, Jabal Amman.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Ahmad Hamada and Inad Matalqa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Lecture entitled "Veterinary Epidemiology Project" by Dr. Samir Oqaylat and Dr. Frank Schenkel at the Goethe Institute — 7 a.m.

## Salah to join Upper House

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal decree was issued Thursday appointing Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Dr. Abdullah Salah as a member of the Upper House of Parliament as of Feb. 1.

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## Where to go from here?

SO WHAT is new about the third round of negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties ending in stalemate once again? Actually there is plenty new about the most recent stalemate in the peace talks in Washington, especially if this failure is viewed against the backdrop of what is going on in Israel where the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appears to be near to an imminent collapse and the prospects of new Israeli elections are getting to be greater by the day if not by the hour. What seems to threaten the Shamir government is the benign thought of offering the Palestinians some kind of self rule leading to some modest form of autonomy. Even this modest and minuscule peace formula — once adamantly rejected by the Palestinians and the Arab parties alike and now being seriously entertained by them as an interim solution — appears now to be too much for the far-right parties' members of the Shamir government. Having decided to withdraw from the cabinet the leaders of both Tehiya and Mokedet extreme right wing parties have made their views loud and clear to Shamir which can be summed up as "no" to autonomy and "no" to continued presence of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Between these two Israeli parties, there are five critical parliamentary seats in balance and losing them would necessarily mean new elections not by November as originally thought but by spring as now being considered.

What is most disturbing about such domestic developments in Israel is not so much the positions of such extreme political parties within the Shamir government. Rather it is what Shamir has been telling them in private about his true intentions vis-a-vis the occupied territories which in short reveal once again that Shamir is also of like-minded stance on the future of these occupied territories and has really no intention of not only of ever relinquishing control over them but also of ever granting the Palestinians self-rule. So all of a sudden even autonomy for the Palestinians is taboo in the thinking of Shamir and his Likud government. What all these means is that the Palestinian concessions are not in fact being rewarded with anything but additional contempt from the Israeli government.

In retrospect, this puts the Palestinians side squarely in the familiar pattern of accepting something that they should have accepted a decade ago but had lost that opportunity because time has changed and changed very much but not in Arab favour. The pressing issue now is where to go from this point where everything seems to be deadlocked and getting no where. The Arab fate has always meant reckoning with new elections that are looming on the horizon not only in the U.S. where incumbent President George Bush cannot be sure of getting reelected but also in Israel where the near collapse of Shamir's government would necessarily mean the effective suspension of the peace negotiations whether in Washington as the Arab side wishes or in the Middle East region as Israel dictates. Coming to think of it, one wonders why the Arab side ever thought that the ongoing peace ploys could amount to anything beyond what they have proven to be. It is a cardinal principle in any set of negotiations that the talks cannot reflect anything more or less than the bargaining strengths of the respective parties. The result of the third round of peace talks merely reinforces that time-honoured principle.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ON THE eve of the first anniversary of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq, Al Ra'i Arabic daily launched a bitter attack on the United States. A public opinion poll conducted a week ago revealed that at least two thirds of the American people had wanted the U.S. armed forces to continue the aggression and march on Baghdad, noted the paper. It said that the results of the poll clearly indicated that the Americans have been mobilised by their aggressive leadership to call for further massing of the Iraqi people. Furthermore, President Bush's national security advisor openly declared his desire to see the Iraqi president, which he called a tyrant, toppled, said the paper. It said that these are all indications of the American hatred towards the Arab and Islamic Nation and of the desire to display such hatred through further acts of aggression on the people of the region. The Americans make open their evil intentions and continue to impose an embargo on the Iraqi people undeterred by any principles, but in implementation of the so-called new world order which envisages the United States as the only superpower acting with vengeance against other nations of the world, the paper continued. It is certain that the public opinion poll conducted in the American media was void of any mention of the sad conditions of the Iraqi people facing starvation, diseases and death so that the ugly picture of the American aggression and its consequences can remain absent from the minds of the public, the paper pointed out. It said that what is causing a bigger grudge and more hatred in the hearts of the American leadership is the fact that the Iraqi president has not been toppled and that the Iraqi capital, along with the other Arab capitals, will continue to stand firm in the face of aggression.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Arab countries which are doing nothing to alleviate the plight of the Iraqi people one year after the devastating war. Abdul Rahim Omar said that the Islamic summit in Dakar, which took anti-Iraqi decisions, set an evil example for the Arab countries which, he said, are still displaying their hostility towards Iraq and its people. American women, moved by the plight of the Iraqi people, have decided to load trucks with food, medicine and other relief supplies and drive the vehicles themselves to Baghdad in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people, the writer said.

## The 'Arabquake' is just beginning

By Clovis Maksoud

IF the war on Iraq one year ago was a "defining moment" for the United States for the Arabs it was a turning point in their modern history. The war was for President Bush a harbinger of the so-called new global order: for the Arabs, it was a jolting experience from which we have not yet recovered. The anniversary might be for the United States and its Western partners an opportunity to remember the euphoria of triumphalism; for the Arab peoples, this day accentuates awareness of their vulnerabilities and the collective anxieties that still await expression.

In a way, we see how different our respective worlds are despite the emerging "global order," how sharply distinct our respective discourses are despite the CNNisation that has rendered our parance nearly uniform. To the United States and the West, the military enforcement of the U.N. Security Council's measures was a tribute to international legality; for the Arabs, it was a demonstration of their world's breakdown. True, the Iraqi regime had clearly violated the charters of both the Arab League and the United Nations. For Arabs, the painful question was — and remains — whether the liberation of Kuwait necessitated the destruction of Iraq.

Many suppressed issues were brought forward by the trauma of the event. People from all walks of life were emboldened to inquire, to reach deep into the tortured Arab soul to find the cause of their tragic dilemma in the process, they discovered that behind the superstructures of oppressive regimes was an increasingly frail body politic. This has led to a growing conviction that popular participation is the only credible means to ensure the recovery of Arab societies.

The invasion of Kuwait has

come to be seen as a consequence of the prevalence of systems that entrenched unilateral decision, making and deliberately excluded accountability. Systems that silenced alternative views and crushed opposition. Systems whose ruthless governance led to reckless adventures.

Although the United States-led coalition was the instrument of Iraq's destruction, the regime's character and behaviour were the cause. How, then, can continued popular Arab animosity towards the coalition be explained?

One must realise that Arab opposition to the war was not an endorsement of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. It was — and is — opposition to a catastrophic fate being imposed on Iraq and its people.

Resentment towards Arab failure to resolve an Arab crisis was fuelled by the mind-boggling stubbornness of Saddam Hussein's regime, as well as by the arrogance of those in the Arab World who deliberately frustrated early Arab efforts at mediation. It was sickening to see the dependence on the West behind their claims to be the Arab component of the "new world order."

As Arabs watched the mounting destruction in both Iraq and Kuwait, they found themselves in the untenable position of being helpless to bring an end to the blood bath. In the West, there was a tendency to think that Arabs had to choose between Iraq and Kuwait. Among Arabs, however, consideration of the people of Iraq and of Kuwait was far more relevant and in the final analysis, Arab sympathy went to the people who suffered most.

This sympathy became the engine for political and intellectual ferment and inquiry. The perception emerged that the deserved punishment of Iraq was being taken far

beyond humane limits by a deliberate indifference to the fate of the Iraqi people. In a way, the sympathy factor signalled an Arab acquiescence to Iraq's military defeat, but not its destruction; it indicated acceptance of the humbling of Iraq's regime, but not the humiliation of the Iraqi people.

Sobriety, a sorting-out process took place among Arabs. To million watching the scenes coming live by television from Iraq, the war was a shocking and needless loss of Arab people. To the thousands caught in the grip of primitive vengeance, it was elimination of "the Iraq enemy."

As a result of these conflicting attitudes, the Arab concept of a transnational society was threatened with implosion. Untapped and previously latent issues came to the surface, and the whole concept of Arab nationalism — its relevance, validity and future — was questioned, widely and thoroughly.

The invasion of Kuwait was a cruel distortion of the concept of Arab unity. The hurried invitation of foreign forces was an abject demonstration of an embarrassing dependency. Caught in the vortex of these cross currents, the commitment to an Arab common destiny was severely shaken — but not totally abandoned.

Mohammad Heikal, an outstanding Egyptian editor and writer, described the entire episode as "an Arabquake" whose "tremors are bound to be with us for a long time to come." One strongly felt tremor has been the awareness that more than \$100 billion of Arab wealth went into the war effort, not counting the billions lost in the destruction in Kuwait and Iraq. This has brought a sharp sense of guilt, particularly among the intelligentsia. Millions of Arabs and Muslims who are living in abject poverty in Sudan, Somalia, Egypt and Mauritania

so sorely needed this wealth. This awareness, in turn, has sharpened the consciousness of those in the Arab mainstream who believe in a common Arab destiny; it also has driven the detractors of Arab solidarity to more dependence on the opponents of pan-Arabism.

Amid this overwhelming crisis, the search for answers remains an ongoing pursuit. In the continued absence of coherent responses, and in the continued hegemony of the industrial West Islamic fundamentalism has acquired new credibility and has staked its claim to inherit the twin mandates of Arab nationalism and Islamic dignity.

In confronting the incipient and paralyzing dependence on the West, Islamic fundamentalists have seized on the Palestinian issue. The current Arab state system, they assert, has failed to deliver the minimum Palestinian national and human rights, or to preserve whatever existential rights the Palestinians still have whether in the occupied territories or elsewhere.

The first free election in Algeria last month was tantamount to an insurrection of the Arab spirit. The outcome, the election of 187 Islamic coalitionists to parliament, signalled the fever of discontent, anger and anxiety within the entire Arab body politic.

The subsequent foreclosure of the results of those free elections deepens the popular sense of frustration and reduces the availability of rational choices. One year to the week, the tragic dilemma of the Arabs is compounded.

Clovis Maksoud was the Arab League representative to the United States and United Nations. He is now director of the Centre for the Study of the Global South and a professor at American University. The article is reprinted from the Los Angeles Times.

## Expulsion policy splits families, creates hardships

By Eileen Alt Powell  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Rami Rajoub sometimes picks up a gold-framed photograph of his father and carries it around the house, demanding "let's go see daddy."

But visits between the 2-year-old Palestinian toddler and his father, Jabril, are few and far between.

Jabril Rajoub is among 67 Palestinian men exiled by Israel since the Israeli uprising against Israeli occupation began in December 1987 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The policy of deporting Palestinians has resurfaced as an issue because Israel has ordered 12 more expelled in the midst of Mideast peace talks in Washington. The U.N. Security Council has condemned the Israeli orders, and the men are appealing the action.

Though the deportation orders follow the slayings of four Israelis in the occupied territories, the Palestinians have only been accused of anti-Israeli incitement. The expulsions would be for life.

Human rights organisations have long argued that Israel's deportations violate international conventions protecting the rights of people under military occupation. Israel defends them as necessary to deter violence.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has advocated speeding up the deportation process. He told parliament last week that he was convinced deportations were "an effective deterrent."

"It's hard on us financially and emotionally," said Mr. Rajoub's wife, Hiba, in an interview Monday. "How do I explain to my son why his father can't be here with us?"

Mr. Rajoub, 37, was convicted a decade ago in a fatal grenade attack but later released in an Arab-Israeli prisoner exchange. He was deported four years ago for anti-Israeli activities. He now lives in Tunisia — headquarters of the PLO — and his family rarely can visit. Hiba has had to move in with

her parents, at times relying on family financial help to make ends meet.

"I feel guilty when my mother buys diapers and other things for us," she said. "My mother has her own needs."

And there is the loneliness. Hiba has been able to see her husband just three times since he was exiled, most recently in Tunis last summer. Last week she was alone here when their second son, Hassam, was born.

"I would have liked to have had my husband with me," she said, cradling the child.

Jan Abu Shahr, a human rights activist, says the families of deportees often face problems when they try to visit their loved ones abroad.

"Israel generally denies them exit permits until they sign an agreement not to return for two, three or five years," Ms. Shahr said.

Most wives of men deported since the start of the uprising have grudgingly signed such agreements and left, she said, adding, "It is, in essence, deporting the whole family."

In other cases, where families stay behind, separation can last for years, Palestinian journalist Nasser Ata saw his father, Abdul Jawad Sallah, in Jordan last week for the first time since 1986.

Mr. Sallah was among 1,250 Palestinians expelled from the West Bank and Gaza before Israel began applying the punishment anew in the uprising.

He had been the mayor of the West Bank town of El Bireh and was deported by Israel in 1973 after refusing to cooperate with the Israeli military government.

"When your father is taken away, it destroys the essence of the family," Mr. Ata said. "Your mother, your father in the home are your base."

Mr. Sallah longs to see his 86-year-old mother, who is too ill to travel to visit him, Mr. Ata said. And he barely knows his five sons because "he couldn't be with us as we were growing up."

For his father, Mr. Ata says, "exile from his homeland has been torture."

## Respect is long overdue

By Schaam Elmufiti

THE moment I step out of the flat, an invisible (to sight but not to emotion) barrier is raised around me accompanied by an austere expression. An expression that my mother would describe as "hostile and depressing." However, to paint my face with any other expression would be misconstrued as a friendly and therefore, an "approachable" face, considered incongruous to the existing social climate.

I wonder if the reader has a clue as to the subject matter I am broaching... if the reader is female I am sure that I sound familiar. I address the problem of harassment that woman experience and put up with daily; not just on the streets, but in homes, offices and educational establishments. No decent human-being is deserving of such lack of respect but it is just exactly this that many of us face and find ourselves in a hopeless position of not being able to react, both openly and immediately. This dilemma is quite commonly due to little or no support from the people around us, family and friends.

As I walk along a high street, whether alone or with friends, "men" aged from eight to 80 years, see it necessary to make vulgar remarks expressing their (sexual) desires (for you). Men by themselves are, on the whole, incapable of such brazenness; their "vulnerability" allows them only to stare and follow you with their eyes. Occasionally, their feet "unconsciously" begin to follow your footsteps — this requires not so much courage as a sufficiently insidious mind. Men in a group demonstrate their "masculinity" to their fellow men by uttering repulsive, obscene and shallow comments or even proposals guaranteed to be followed by a guffaw that would keep re-

spectable graves in an eternal state of violation. Sometimes it is impossible to think that most of these "proposers" are family men, possibly even with daughters of my age.

Physical harassment, such as groping, is a "past-time" reserved for certain opportune moments and places like those of office corridors, university stairways, or even house kitchens — where a man might "deliberately" — find himself alone with his sister-in-law.

It is not unfit streets that we should fear, nor is it the kitchen of your own home. It is not a matter of place or (of) time, but most pointedly, it is a matter of mentality.

The most natural reaction of the offended is to turn around and harass the offender. Oftentimes though, it seems pointless to do so since you would only receive a deaf-ear filled only with apathy. In the short-term, it may be easier to ignore the thoughtless and base comments; in the long-term, however, such a response is self-destructive and atavistic. As we close the 20th century, should not this problem be one of the past? Is it not enough that our mothers, grandmothers, and sisters have experienced all this?

I cannot believe that anyone would wish this harassment on our daughters and granddaughters and their daughters and granddaughters. At the very least, it should be realised that if we do not make an issue of it now, and is it not about time, but instead accept others' attempts to pacify our voices to insignificance, the offenders, will never learn respect towards others and, more fundamentally, respect of themselves.

The writer is a student of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Exeter University. She is currently studying Arabic at Yarmouk University.

## The week in print

## War is not over for Iraq; public administration needs overhauling

Reviewed by Elia Nasralla

LOCAL newspapers in the past week gave prominence to the first anniversary of the war on Iraq launched by the U.S.-led Western coalition, and discussed the situation in Algeria following the resignation of its president, the peace talks in Washington and a number of local issues.

The war, which began on 17.1.91, devastated Iraq's military and civilian infrastructure causing untold sufferings to the Iraqi people, but although the guns are silent, the war is continuing on the Iraqi nation, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

The continuing sanctions on Iraq, depriving its children of medicine and essential food supplies, are another form of aggression being launched in the name of the international legitimacy, said Samir Qitami. He said that brutality and war, which triumphed over humanity and peace in January 1991, were still continuing in January 1992.

Despite the elapse of one year since the U.S.-led aggression, the U.S.-Zionist alliance is waging a propaganda campaign against Iraq projecting a false image about Baghdad designed to mobilise the world public opinion against the Iraqi leadership, said George Hadad, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that the Iraqi leadership is being accused of starving the Kurds and carrying out atrocities against other communities and, above all, it is being accused of striving to attain nuclear capabilities with which to strike against Israel.

He said that such a campaign hides behind its evil intentions and could mean another aggression. Although Iraq has been driven out from Kuwait, the U.S.-led coalition is still imposing an embargo on the Iraqi people, said Mahmoud Rimawi in his column published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The U.S. and its allies, he said, are creating problems among the Kurdish community, in the north of Iraq, so as to justify the continuation of these sanctions and possible interference, under the form of another aggression, on Iraq. The writer said that despite

the magnitude of the tragedy, Arab countries are adopting a passive stand and not lifting a finger to end the embargo.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab warned the Arab countries, including those which aligned themselves against Iraq, that the whole Arab World is targeted one year after the end of the Gulf war. Citing Libya and the threats against it as an example, Salameh Ekour said that each Arab country, including Syria and Algeria, will be exposed to aggression unless the Arab leaders transcended their present differences and work together to bolster their position.

The writer, however, saw an optimistic sign towards reconciliation in a call made by the prime minister of Bahrain recently for solidarity among Arab states in the face of common adversity.

His idea was echoed by a colleague in Sawt Al Shaab, Mohammad Hannoun, who said Arabs and Muslims are liable to fall victim to aggression and their countries to be swallowed up or destroyed. The writer said that the U.S.-led alliance, which succeeded in destroying Iraq and rendering the Arab Nation in total disarray, is bound to launch further acts of aggression sooner or later to achieve Western goals and protect Israel's interests.

A columnist in Al Dustour commented on the developments in Algeria noting that the success of the Islamists came only as a consequence of the deteriorating social and economic conditions.

At least 33 per cent of Algeria's workforce is unemployed, the country is indebted by \$26 billion, although it possesses vast oil wealth, and the leadership has been monopolising everything, said Fad Al Khalafat.

The writer, who is also an Islamic member of Parliament, said that the poor people of Algeria saw in the Islamic Salvation Front the means for real salvation from the present difficulties facing the country.

Under the title "A coup against democracy," a writer in Sawt Al Shaab said that the Algerian president's resignation from office was a rebellion against the march of democracy because he chose to resign

only five days before the second round of a general election that was bound to bring the Islamists to rule the country.

Ahmad Dhiban said that he was out for the Islamists against the other parties, but he pointed out that any move against the democratic process would harm the country and its political future.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, called on the Algerian people to resort to dialogue and reason and moderation in discussing their future and warned against rash actions on the part of any political group. The writer said that if France and Europe are showing concern over the developments in Algeria, the Arab countries are more concerned about the future of the African Arab state at a time when there is great need for solidarity among the Arab states in the face of common threats.

It is unfortunate for Algeria that, due to its geographical location and its proximity to Europe, developments there are bound to be influenced by other countries, said Mustafa Abu Libdeh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab. The writer said that France in particular considers Algeria as part of its security depth and Paris is bound to react to such developments in a manner that would ensure its own interests.

Europe, the United States and other regional forces are bound to be tempted to play a role in Algeria's internal affairs and so aggravate the situation there, the writer added.

Sawt Al Shaab daily, commenting on the peace talks in Washington, said that Israel refuses to discuss substantive issues and rejects demand for a halt to building settlements on Arab land and at the same time insists on having peace with the Arabs.

The paper said that as long as Israel continues to occupy Arab land and continues its settlement programme on that land there can be no talk about peace.

Also referring to the peace talks, Salameh Ekour said in Sawt Al Shaab that it is better for the Arabs not to go to Moscow for the multilateral talks as long as Israel fails to respond to the essential requirements of peace at the

bilateral talks.

The writer said that delaying the Moscow parity for a month or two can help the Arabs discover whether Washington is serious about achieving peace based on justice and international legitimacy.

He said that since the peace talks came upon the initiative of the United States, it is up to the U.S. administration to ensure the success of any talks, including the bilateral talks which have so far achieved nothing.

Columnist Ahmad Al Mislch believes that George Bush is no longer eligible for another term at the White House in light of a public opinion poll in the United States which showed his popularity ebbing.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, the columnist said that Mr. Bush had failed in ousting President Saddam Hussein, failed to achieve success in the Arab-Israeli talks, failed to end the worsening economic recession in his country and is troubled by millions of other issues which make him unfit for another term in office.

Several columnists lauded the new move by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to carry out reform to the public administration system. What the prime minister plans to do is of immense importance to the country because he realises that the public administration system in Jordan is outdated and needs to be overhauled, said Tareq Masarweh.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, the columnist said that the prime minister realises that the present regulations lie behind the ills of the public administration system, that civil servants lack incentives to improve their performance and that there are no right men filling the right positions.

Perhaps the poor performance of a number of government departments in dealing with the consequences of the snowstorm lately prompted the prime minister to take action and announce his plans to overhaul the civil service system, said Mohammad Daoudieh in Al Dustour. The outdated and weak civil service opened the way for many ills, like favouritism and corruption, warranting immediate reform such as the one the prime minister plans to carry out, the writer added.



## Washington bilaterals end

(Continued from page 1)

In their talks with the Israelis, the Palestinians too found that differences over settlements and self-government rule were almost unbridgeable.

The two sides spent three "stormy" sessions over settlements and plans to introduce Palestinian self-government rule in the occupied territories.

Throughout the talks, Israeli delegates insisted that the settlements be excluded from negotiations on "autonomy" and dealt with only when the final status of the occupied territories is decided.

The Palestinians believe that only through American intervention can they get the Israelis to stop building more Jewish settlements and to accept a meaningful plan for self-government.

In this context, the future of the Israeli request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to absorb Jewish immig-

rants will be crucial for the continuation of the peace process, according to Palestinian and Arab delegates. "This is why perhaps the Israelis want to move the talks out of Washington and away from the State Department," a Palestinian delegate said.

In the end it will depend on what (President George) Bush and (Secretary of State) Baker decide to do in order to end the stalemate.

It is not whether the U.S. president and his secretary of state will do something to force Israel into halting its settlement activity that is the question now. Rather it is how they will do it that U.S. officials and observers do not yet know.

"There is no question in my mind that the president and the secretary of state are still committed to seeing settlement building stopped," said an American expert on the Middle East.

The administration simply cannot change its mind on the issue of Israel's settlement policy," he added.

"It is a question of how settlement building will be tied to the loan guarantees."

Mr. Bush, who requested Congress to delay consideration of the Israeli request for the loan guarantees in a bid to coax the Jewish state into the peace talks, has not commented on the issue yet. Congress is expected to start debating the Israeli request later this month.

Several formulas are reportedly under consideration by Congress and the administration but none has been confirmed as the most likely choice.

"True, this is an election year, and as such it will be difficult for Bush and Baker to put pressure on Israel during it," said the expert, who is a former U.S. ambassador in the Middle East.

"But these guys have been around long enough to know that no matter what the president does, American Jews will still not vote for him. In my opinion, he cannot and will not renege on his position over the settlements."

The other question that remains is whether a caretaker Israeli government that is led by Yitzhak Shamir will give a mandate to Israeli negotiators to discuss substantive issues with Arab side assuming that he decides to send them back for further talks in Washington or any other venue.

Most observers here think that Mr. Shamir will resume the talks both because he needs good relations with

the Americans and most of his constituents believe the negotiations with the Arabs should go on. "Whether he will give his negotiators the necessary powers to discuss substance is another matter," an American analyst said. It is just probable he will play the game of stalling."

If the Shamir government does fall, and new elections are called, Friday's Washington Post quoted Israeli sources as saying, the development "likely would not interrupt the peace talks, but would almost certainly mean months of marking time in the negotiations as Israeli leaders focus on campaigning and a caretaker government avoids the tough decisions necessary for real progress in the Middle East."

The Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators are scheduled to leave Washington Monday. Some of them went on lecture tours arranged by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee while others were visiting various states on private visits.

## Shamir foresees early elections

(Continued from page 1)

"The train left the station," Mr. Zeevi said on army radio. "We will rip up the tracks so it can no longer move."

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon of Likud suggested Mr. Shamir would Moledet back by declaring it would annex Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and later demand sovereignty over other occupied lands.

"We will annex the areas where the Jews live, it would provide a minimal security net," Mr. Sharon said on Israel Radio.

The main opposition Labour Party said it preferred early elec-

tions and that it would press a no-confidence vote on Monday in hopes of toppling Mr. Shamir.

Party leader Shimon Peres told Israel Radio that elections "endanger and maybe extend the peace process unnecessarily."

According to a poll published Friday in the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronoth, 57 per cent of Israelis prefer going to elections. 26 per cent oppose the move and 17 per cent have no opinion. But the poll indicated new elections would produce the same deadlock between the Likud and Labour parties as balloting in November 1988.

## Iraqi oil could flow in March

(Continued from page 1)

Resolution 706," he said. "Obviously, this is an area where one could expect vehement opposition from several members of the Security Council."

Although the source did not elaborate, it is known that the U.S. and Britain, the two key Security Council members who headed the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf war, consistently reject any moves which could signal a definite return of Iraq into the oil market while some of the key political objectives of the West remain unaccomplished.

The U.S. and Britain have affirmed that they would veto any step to "rehabilitate" Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Under Resolution 706, adopted in September amid international outcry over the suffering of the Iraqi people under the sanctions, Iraq can export \$1.6 billion worth of oil through its twin pipelines through Turkish territory in six months. A special United Nations committee of experts has to approve every individual contract and the Sanctions Committee will control all proceeds.

Thirty per cent of all proceeds will be set aside for reparations to be paid to various parties who suffered from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Another part — said to be between 15 and 20 per cent — will go to finance U.N. operations related to the terms of the ceasefire which ended the allied war against Iraq to liberate Kuwait in March last year, and the rest will be spent to buy food and medicine for the Iraqis.

Iraq has been refusing to export oil under the stringent U.N. measures outlined in Resolution 706, citing their constituted a violation of Iraqi sovereignty, but was also seeking to water them down.

There is also a feeling among some diplomats that the Iraqi move to open talks on the oil issue with the U.N. could be a stalling tactic pending success on securing funds from other sources.

"But the nature of the points raised by Iraq in Vienna indicates an acceptable level of seriousness in accepting the U.N. deal," said one of the sources.

On the practical side, Iraq's demands that it be allowed to use its own discretion to decide which pipeline to use for exporting oil is seen as its desire to use its Min Aji Bakr and Khor Al Amara terminals in the Gulf in a bid to avoid the heavy transit charges that would have to be paid if it uses its pipeline through Turkey.

A proposal submitted to the U.N. by the rebel Kurds to exploit oil wells in their control in the north of the country to raise funds for the needs of the Kurdish population was "touched upon" during the Vienna discussions but "although the Iraqis made it a point to protest, they do not seem to believe that the proposal would get anywhere," said the source.

The source described the Kurdish proposal as "a crude outline of a still-born idea."

In any event, the source added,

U.N. officials, "who appear to be more interested than Iraq in ensuring that the limited oil deal goes through," are now involved in efforts to renew the permission for another six months starting March — since the deadline stipulated in Resolution 706 runs out by then — and are exploring possibilities to increase the ceiling to a minimum of \$2.4 billion as a compromise with the Iraqi-sought \$3.2 billion.

The U.N. keenness in pressing ahead with the deal reflects the empty coffers of the world body to finance its ceasefire monitoring operations and the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (a senior U.N. official said last week that the process of eliminating the Iraqi arsenal was being cut down as a result of lack of funds).

The U.N. does not foresee any objection in principle to Iraq's demand to use its Gulf ports rather than Turkish terminal in the Mediterranean as long as proper monitoring mechanisms could be set in place, according to reports from New York.

Another twin pipeline which runs through Saudi territory to the Red Sea port of Yanbu also remains closed, but prospects of reopening them remain dim in view of the strained political relations between Riyadh and Baghdad in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait.

Senior Gulf diplomats were quoted as saying recently that the Saudi leadership was determined not to allow any resumption of Iraqi oil pumping through the pipeline as long as President Saddam continued to rule Iraq.

In the meantime, moves by European Community (EC) member countries to nullify limited amounts of Iraqi bank accounts have gathered momentum, and this could give an additional element of confidence to the Iraqis in maintaining their firm position in the oil talks with the U.N., experts said.

"Iraq has been spending close to \$200 million every month in purchasing essential food for its people since early 1991," said one expert. "As long as they (the Iraqi leadership) feel that they could continue to maintain this level for another six to nine months regardless of the source of funds, it is doubtful that Baghdad would be prone to make any concessions on the positions it stated in Vienna."

Among countries taking the lead in unfreezing Iraqi assets — left to the discretion of the individual governments concerned under Security Council Resolution 687 which set the formal terms for a ceasefire in the Gulf war — are Germany and Italy.

According to the expert, there is little chance that the world body can influence individual European decisions — Britain having unilaterally gone ahead and released part of Iraqi bank accounts in exchange for the release of a British held in Iraq — and withstand the mounting international pressure to ease the suffering of Iraqi people.

"So it would appear that the ball is more in Turtle Bay (where the U.N. is headquartered) than in Baghdad," he said.

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## McEnroe beats Becker in Australian Open

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — Veteran John McEnroe rolled back the years to thrash world number three Boris Becker in straight sets in the third round of the Australian Open Friday.

The unseeded McEnroe, 32, beat the defending champion 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 in two hours 33 minutes to move into the last 16 of the tournament.

It was a vintage display by the former number one, who has not beaten a player ranked in the top five since 1989 when he defeated Ivan Lendl in four sets.

Becker, 24, angry and frustrated throughout much of the match, served poorly while McEnroe scammed around the court producing winning volleys and passing shots that belied his years.

Becker made a fight of it in the third set saving a remarkable seven break points in two service games that would have given the American a service for the match.

But McEnroe finally got the break at 6-5 when Becker put a backhand over the baseline. He wrapped the match as an ace made it 40-30 and then Becker lamely netted a backhand.

The match was played under lights in an atmosphere befitting a final and McEnroe got a standing ovation from the packed centre court when he threw his arms up to acknowledge a famous victory.

McEnroe, drawn in the tougher half of the competition, will now meet Spaniard Emilio Sanchez in the fourth round and is in line for a quarterfinal showdown with former number one and arch-rival Ivan Lendl. Lendl won the Australian Open in 1989 and 1990.

Earlier the 31-year-old fifth seed dispatched the 1.95-metre tall German Marcus Zieckes 6-4, 6-4, 7-6.

McEnroe, who had not beaten a top 10 player in 1991, said the victory was like a "big monkey off my back."

"It's been a long time coming, it's really like a big relief more than anything else, it's been so long since I beat a player of Boris's caliber in a major event," he added.

The seven times Grand Slam title winner had earlier said that he might retire from the circuit if his results did not improve this year or if he won a Grand Slam title.

"If I win another Grand Slam I would seriously consider retiring, but I will worry about that when it happens," he told a packed news conference which applauded him as he entered the room.

"I was playing the tennis I wanted to play and it was simply a whole match, the theatrics were made by the people screaming and not by me screaming so for me it was really nice."

McEnroe, who last beat Becker in 1985, said he had decided to take the ball early, standing well inside the baseline, to put pressure on Becker.

"I think I do that better than most players. ... He (Becker) seemed a little bit surprised and a little bit slow."

For Becker the loss means he will slip out of the top five ranking players in the world for the first time since June 1988, according to an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) spokeswoman.

Ironically, it was her last year when he won the final that he became number one for the first time.

Becker, who was gracious in defeat, said McEnroe played at a standard reminiscent of how he was when first played him.

"His serve-and-volley game was good, he did not do that in a whole match in the past few years. He would normally fall apart."

"It's good to see the old John McEnroe playing. It was also good for tennis."

Meanwhile top seed Monica Seles came a little closer Friday to defending her Australian Open title, waltzing 6-1, 6-1 over Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia.

Basuki was the fastest-rising player in women's tennis last year — moving from 266th to 35th — but she had no answer to Seles' power and poise from the baseline.

Seles, 18, never has lost a match at the Australian Open. She won the championship last year on her debut.

In other matches, Omar Camporese of Italy, No. 15 David Wheaton of the United States and Andrei Chesnokov of Russia all won their third-round matches.

Camporese ended the giant-killing run of Lars Wahlberg of Sweden with a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (17-15) win, after being down 2-5 in the third set. Wahlberg, ranked 256 in the world, had beaten Americans Brad Gilbert and Derrick Rostagno in the first two rounds.

## Germany to meet Netherlands in European soccer finals

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — World Cup winners Germany were again pitted against Netherlands, their old rivals and the defending champions, in Friday's draw for the European Championship finals.

The Germans and Dutch, who clashed in the final rounds of the last World Cup and the 1988 European Championship, meet again in their final game of Group 2 in Gothenburg on June 18.

The match could decide which nation reaches the semifinals. Swedish police, who had feared clashes between visiting hooligans during the June tournament, were relieved that England were kept apart from the Germans and Dutch.

England were drawn in Group 1 with hosts Sweden, highly-fancied France and Yugoslavia, who were confirmed by UEFA to be participating on Friday morning.

Scotland and the newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), who qualified for the finals as the former Soviet Union, complete group 2.

The Germans, beaten by the Dutch in Germany in the 1988 European Championship semifinals, will be keen to repeat the 2-1 win they enjoyed in the second round of the 1990 World Cup.

"It could have been worse. We can be happy with the draw. Without wanting to be arrogant, our team has a very good chance of reaching the semifinals," said coach Berti Vogts.

Former team chief Franz Beckenbauer, who led Germany to triumph in Italy in 1990, said: "It looks like a very balanced competition. Holland and Germany are favourites in Group 2, but the CIS can surprise and you never know with Scotland."

Vogts was worried about the CIS players: "One problem will be getting a close look at the team," he said.

If the former Soviet Union can overcome the political turmoil at home and reproduce the form that saw them qualify ahead of a lacklustre Italy, neither the Dutch nor the Germans can be certain of reaching the semifinals.

The top two teams in each group qualify for the semifinals with the winners playing the second-placed team in the other.

Former English World Cup-winning player Bobby Charlton, like Beckenbauer a guest at the draw, was confident.

"I am very pleased that England will not be playing Germany, the Netherlands or Scotland," he said.

"France, England and Yugoslavia are equally strong, perhaps with France slight favourites," he said.

Local police chief Sune Sandstrom, in charge of security for the 16-day finals, saw his wishes come true.

He had said Thursday his ideal draw would be for Germany and England to be kept apart and for England and Scotland also to be drawn in separate groups.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson was delighted that the draw pitted them against France in the opening game of the finals on June 10 in Stockholm. "What an opening game for Swedish soccer fans. That will be really something," he said.

France, who qualified with maximum points, have not lost for almost three years and have won 16 of their last 18 games.

The latest London bookmakers odds had Germany as 9-4 favourites with France close behind on 9-2. England and the Netherlands were rated joint third on 11-2.

The CIS were 8-1 with Sweden and Yugoslavia level on 9-1. Scotland trailed at an unflattering 14-1.

UEFA set an April 1 deadline Friday for a decision on whether Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union could compete in the European Championship finals in June.

"By then we must decide where we stand," Lennart Johansson, president of European soccer's governing body UEFA, told a news conference prior to Friday's draw for the finals.

UEFA earlier this week gave the provisional go-ahead for a team from the newly-formed Commonwealth on Independent States to take the place won by the ex-Soviet Union in the eight-team finals in Sweden.

It also said the Yugoslavia team was still in line to take part despite the conflict there.

But UEFA reserved the right to alter the decision to meet new developments.

"The situation is very turbulent in both cases and things change almost every day ... but the Yugoslav Football Association still exists and therefore we are prepared to let them play," Johansson said.

Denmark, runners-up to Yugoslavia in qualifying Group 4, and Italy, who finished second to the Soviet Union in Group 3, have been put on standby as replacements.

"The countries on standby must be told whether they are playing or not by April 1," Johansson said.

UEFA may expand the next European Soccer Championship finals from eight to 16 teams and possibly divide the tournament between two countries.

Johansson said all their members had been asked for their reaction to doubling the size of the tournament.

Germany to meet Netherlands in European soccer finals

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## Financial Markets

**U.S. Dollar in International Markets**

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 15/1/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 16/1/92
Sterling Pound	1.7585	1.7555
Deutsche Mark	1.6825	1.6210
Swiss Franc	1.4418	1.4415
French Franc	5.5385	5.5028**
Japanese Yen	128.55	128.30
European Currency Unit	1.2570	1.2626**

\* USD Per STD  
\*\* European Opening @ 9:00 a.m. GMT

**Interbank Bid rates for currencies exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.16	4.16	4.25	4.56
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.56	10.50	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.37	9.31	9.25	9.12
Swiss Franc	7.36	7.36	7.36	7.33
French Franc	9.75	9.75	9.56	9.43
Japanese Yen	5.37	5.21	4.96	4.81
European Currency Unit	10.25	10.18	10.06	9.81

**Prevalent Metals**

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.75	6.80	Silver	4.17	.090

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.6800	.6820
Sterling Pound	1.1905	1.1968
Deutsche Mark	.4186	.4207
Swiss Franc	.4108	.4132
French Franc	.1228	.1234
Japanese Yen	.5292	.5318
Dutch Guilder	.3718	.3737
Swedish Krona	.1150	.1156
Italian Lira	.0555	.0559
Belgian Franc	.02033	.02043

**Other Currencies**

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharain Dinar	1.7780	1.7860
Lebanese Lira	.077 5	.0778
Saudi Riyal	.1810	.1817
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Omani Rial	.1842	.1855
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2100
Omani Rial	1.7440	1.7510
UAE Dirham	.1842	.1855
Greek Drachma	.3660	.3770
Cypriot Pound	1.3990	1.4025

**Amman Financial Market**

Index	14/1/92	Close	15/1/92	Close
All-Share	134.12		135.62	
Banking Sector	110.65		109.93	
Insurance Sector	131.45		131.69	
Industry Sector	168.64		168.35	
Services Sector	151.16		150.93	

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## Chinese goods found not good

BEIJING (R) — China's state factories are finding it hard to live up to the current slogan of "quality, variety and efficiency".  
An official report says that more than 40 per cent of goods tested recently in cities were found to be below standard.  
Up to 60 per cent of aluminium pots and moulded sneakers failed the test, the New China News Agency has said.  
Also rejected by inspectors were 40 per cent of packed jasmine tea and milk powder, 30 per cent of bottled honey and sausage and 16 per cent of tested woolen cloth.

In all, 40.54 per cent of tested goods in the country's 10 major cities failed the test.  
The pass rate was 16 per cent below that in the first quarter of the year, the agency said.  
"This means the country is now facing a serious problem of commodity quality," the agency quoted informed sources as saying.

China's state industries, heavily in debt and costing the state billions in subsidies to keep them afloat, continue to churn out unwanted and unsellable goods that end up in warehouses.  
Official efforts to improve the situation have had little success so far, according to statistics and economists.

Meanwhile, a Chinese state enterprise has set up the nation's first industrial centre for experts who have returned after living overseas, in a bid to lure home specialists.

The centre set up by Beijing Iron and Steel Company, Beijing's largest state-owned firm, offers returning experts housing, high pay, good facilities for scientific research and other amenities, the official New China News Agency said.

The preferential treatment is going to experts in mechanics, hydraulics, electrical engineering, shipping, architecture and international trade, it said.

It was the first time a Chinese state enterprise had offered such perks to returnees, the agency said. Official think tanks already offered similar deals to entice experts home.

China has seen an enormous brain drain since it opened itself to the outside world more than a decade ago.

Thousands of scholars and technical experts allowed abroad for study failed to return, particularly after Beijing's June, 1989 crackdown on dissent.

## Soviet demise deals hard blow to India

NEW DELHI (R) — India's tea exports and oil imports have been hit hard by the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of a key bilateral trade agreement, traders and industry sources said.

India is approaching Iran and Malaysia for two million tonnes of crude to make up for a disruption in supplies from the former Soviet Union, the Press Trust of India (PTI) has said.

PTI quoted oil industry sources as saying that oil supplies to India from the former Soviet Union stopped in December, when an Indo-Soviet trade pact expired. A cloud of uncertainty hangs over what, if anything, will replace it.

Replacing Soviet oil from the spot market will put more pressure on India's fragile balance of payments.  
Delhi nearly defaulted on its \$71 billion foreign debt in June after overseas banks refused to extend credit. At the time, India only had enough foreign exchange to pay for two weeks of imports.

The Soviet Union accounted for nearly 20 per cent of India's total trade and was its second largest trading partner after the United States, but the trade pact was especially beneficial to India because it allowed payment for imports in Indian rupees.

Western diplomats say India will probably have to pay hard

currency in future if it wants to continue buying oil from Russia or other former Soviet republics.  
A quarter of India's oil imports used to come from the former Soviet Union. The petroleum ministry estimated India would import 20 million tonnes of oil and 10 million tonnes of products in the current fiscal year ending in March.

But the diplomats say well management problems in India's biggest oil field, Bombay High, mean India could fall four million tonnes short of its projected production of 32 million tonnes. Oil imports could have to increase to compensate.

Traders in the southern plantation town of Coonoor said India's tea market had also been crippled by the absence of Soviet buyers.

The weekly tea auctions were cancelled last month in the southern cities of Coimbatore and Coonoor and was quiet in Kochi, the United Planters Association of Southern India Secretary General B. Sivaram told Reuters.  
Soviet purchasers formerly bought 57 per cent of India's tea exports, including 78 per cent of south India's exports, he said.  
But they have been absent from the auctions for a month, following the collapse of the old union and the emergence of the new Commonwealth of Independent States, he said.

## Experts see poorer '92 for Europe car industry

LONDON (AP) — Western Europe's auto industry suffered a second year of flat sales in 1991 despite a sales boom in Germany.  
The outlook for this year is poorer, and contrasts sharply with the industry's boom during the 1980s, experts said.

Total sales rose 0.1 per cent to an estimated 13.454 million in 1991, said Philip Aytton, a European auto analyst with the London investment firm Barclays De Zoete Wedd Ltd., has said.

Sales declined 0.2 per cent in 1990, he said. Mr. Aytton forecast a drop of two per cent this year, largely because of slowing demand in Germany.

In 1991, sales in Germany rose 28 per cent, he said.

The renunciation released a lot of savings in the east, which was used to buy cars, mainly second-hand cars, but that obviously released a lot of money to buy new cars in the west, Mr. Aytton said.

Sales fell 21 per cent in Britain, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has reported.

Continental associations have not yet reported 1991 sales, but

Mr. Aytton estimated they were down 12 per cent in France, seven per cent in Spain, 2.6 in the Netherlands and one per cent in Italy.

Sales in Britain, France and Spain were all depressed by economic slowdown, with consequent higher unemployment and lower consumer confidence, Mr. Aytton said. High interest rates also dampened demand.

Peter Caldwell, a British auto analyst also at Barclays De Zoete Wedd Ltd., blamed "poor consumer confidence and poor business confidence."

"Companies buy 60 per cent of the new cars sold in Britain, and Mr. Caldwell said demand was hurt by adverse tax changes and by uncertainty over the national elections which must be held by July.

Britain's new car sales slumped to 1.59 million last year, down from two million in 1990, the society said. Sales hit a record 2.3 million in 1989.

"The immediate outlook is bleak and this situation will persist until there is an upturn in the national economy or until measures are taken to ease the excessive level of taxation which affects both the industry and its customers," said the society's chief executive, Sir Hal Miller.

Mr. Caldwell said there should be some additional demand as the cars purchased in 1989 come up for renewal of their three-year motor vehicle inspection stickers.

Ford, Britain's largest auto maker, sold 386,000 new cars last year, down from 500,000 in 1990. Its market share dropped to 24.2 per cent from 25.3 per cent, the society said.

Sales of the No. 2 auto maker — General Motors' Vauxhall — fell to 248,704, or 15.6 per cent of the market, from 323,054, or 16.1 per cent.

Luxury car makers fared for worse. Jaguar and Rolls-Royce sales were almost halved to 5,809 and 513 respectively.

Mr. Caldwell said General Motors and the French auto maker Peugeot had profitable years in Britain, while Ford and Rover suffered losses.

Mr. Aytton said he expects total western European car sales to decline two per cent to 13.185 million this year.



Mohammad Halaiah



Small industrialists like the above shown manufacturer of curtain sheets were weakened by the Gulf crisis (File photo)

## ACI general manager reviews Gulf crisis effects on industrial performance

## Amman Chamber of Industry puts national economic forum high on agenda for 1992

By Salam Shawa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) has set as its first priority for 1992 organising a national economic conference to consolidate the investment climate in Jordan and to enhance the role of the private sector. To achieve this end the chamber will seek the assistance from exceptionally qualified experts to prepare working papers.

This priority was highlighted during a meeting, held at the chamber last week, and attended by the chairman and members of the board of directors and members of the thirteen sectors which act as consultant committees.

In addition to the above-mentioned plan, the ACI General Manager Mohammad Halaiah said in an interview with the Jordan Times that the targets which the chamber would be aiming at in its strategic plan for this year were the promotion of the role of the private sector, advancing of the investment climate in Jordan and modernising the legislations relevant to the economic sector in general and the industrial one in particular.

To implement this goal, special attention should be paid to investment laws and the law of consumption tax, Dr. Halaiah explained.

The opening of the new markets, according to the ACI chief, represents the second issue on the agenda aiming to promote industrial exports.

He noted that extensive programme of visits should be undertaken to countries such as Libya, Iran, Indonesia, Australia.

He singled out the importance and emphasised the huge Iranian market following previous contacts and efforts by the chairman of the board of directors.

Dr. Halaiah said that the chamber was in the process of preparing for a joint Jordanian-Iranian investment seminar. Seminars of this kind should not only include the Iranian market but other potential markets, he explained.

The general manager of the ACI was not optimistic that Jordan would be achieving high percentage of growth this year because some obstacles still exist. However, "there'll be a slight improvement in the value of exports within the total national growth depending somehow on the development of the political atmosphere in the area."

**Industry's performance in 1991**

The year 1991 was a difficult year for the Jordanian industry as it took much of the blow from the Gulf crisis but Jordan industrialists managed to adapt to the situation.

Despite the loss of huge traditional markets and shipping blockade in the gulf of Aqaba,

the industrial sector has managed to survive as well as to continue its contribution to the Jordan economy, Dr. Halaiah said noting that industries had participated by 25 per cent to the gross domestic product.

On the negative side, industrialists complained and suffered a great deal during 1991 from the hindrances of the flow of raw material which affected production and in addition prompted a rise in the cost of shipping and insurance noting the heavy competition on the part of neighbouring countries.

**Consumption-tax problem**

Putting aside all the difficulties caused by the Gulf crisis, the imposition of the consumption tax was another major problem that faced industry last year.

The decision adopted by the minister of finance had several negative effects on the national industry which Dr. Halaiah detailed as follows:-

● Reduction in sales in the local market due to the increase of prices.

● Opening the opportunities for more cheaper imports.

● Increasing of the cost of exports.

● Reducing competitiveness of national industries.

● Shifting the interest of investors from industry to other economic sectors.

● Weakening small enterprises as a result of their limited capital and share of the market.

Sources at the chamber told the Jordan Times that there was a case in the court regarding consumption tax.

A dialogue, meanwhile, is going on with top officials behind the scenes at the Ministry of Finance and Customs, the sources said.

However, industrialists are looking forward for a positive court decision that would spare them the consumption tax despite the assurance from the minister of finance that the tax would serve as a protection ceiling for the national industry and for it being a part of the Kingdom's economic structural adjustment programme.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

The government of Lesotho has received a Technical Assistance from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for the institutional support of the Water and Sewerage Branch. The Technical Assistance consists of the recruitment of an Arab Engineer for a period of three years.

**(1) Title of Post: Senior Project's Engineer**

Accountable to: Chief Engineer

**(2) Duties:**

- To liaise with the Chief Engineer in carrying out preliminary investigations, surveys, designs, preparation of drawings bidding documents for the construction of water supply systems, and to assist in the preparation of capital budgets.
- To liaise with donor agencies on technical matters, to supervise consultants, to administer contracts and to prepare reimbursement documents.
- To supervise and direct the activities of construction units including the preparation of bills of quantities, labour schedules, monitoring work progress, expenditures and preparation of reimbursement documents.
- To assist in the training of staff in appropriate engineering and administrative procedures.

**(3) Qualifications and Experience;**

- A degree in civil engineering, a post graduate degree in Water-Sanitary Engineering and at least ten years of experience in water supply projects and related activities.
- Excellent command of the English language (spoken and written).

**(4) Service conditions:**

- The appointment is non-pensionable and will be for 3 years, subject to renewal by mutual consent. Accommodation will be provided free of charge according to Government standards which include hard furnishings only. Leave is in accordance with Lesotho Government's regulations for senior posts. (4 days / month).
- Travel costs between the officer's country of origin and Lesotho on economy class will be paid for the officer's spouse and (3) of his children below the age of 18 years.
- The officer will be provided with transportation.
- Detailed terms and conditions of employment will be communicated to candidates on receipt of their applications.

(5) Applications accompanied by curriculum vitae of applicant and full names and addresses of two references should be forwarded to the following address:

**Managing Director,  
Water and Sewerage Branch,  
P.O. Box 426,  
Maseru,  
100,  
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

(6) Deadline for submission: 29th February, 1992.

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Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in  
**GHOST**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Special shows for children on Thursday and Friday at 11:30 a.m.  
**NINJA TURTLES**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Cinema RAINBOW** Tel: 625153

Noor Al Sharif & Maail Zayed in  
**THE SHOUT**  
(Arabic)  
Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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# Commonwealth commander wants slower Soviet forces break-up

MOSCOW (R) — The acting commander of Commonwealth Armed Forces said Friday Global tragedy threatened if the future of the former Soviet Armed Forces was not settled quickly.

"The armed forces remain our last barrier against disintegration," Yevgeny Shaposhnikov told a conference of concerned officers of the former Soviet army called to discuss the army's — and their — future.

"We have convened this meeting because the course of events has reached the border beyond which lie feuding, chaos and national if not global tragedy," said Marshal Shaposhnikov, who was defence minister in the dying days of the Soviet Union.

Discussion of the fate of the world's largest military force divided the former Soviet republics.

TASS News Agency reported Commonwealth leaders who met in Moscow Thursday had put off fundamental decisions on the military until their next summit in February.

At a summit at the end of December in Minsk, leaders agreed there would be a joint unified armed force but each republic had the right to set up its own conventional armed force.

Four republics — Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Azerbaijan — want to take over Soviet forces on their soil and want no part of a joint force.

Ukraine has taken the most confrontational line, insisting all former Soviet troops on its territory must swear allegiance to Ukraine or leave, and wrangling with Russia over control of the

Black Sea Fleet.

Marshal Shaposhnikov attacked what he called "hasty unilateral decisions by certain republics and politicians to use the army for their own ends."

"We need a transition period of two to three years, and maybe more," he said.

Referring to demands by the three former Soviet republics in the Baltic that troops there should be withdrawn immediately, he said: "You don't treat officers like dust that you wipe off the table with a cloth."

Army officers say their welfare has been forgotten and their interests and formerly respected status have been sold out while republican leaders use them for political ends.

Officers, most of whom favour united armed forces despite the collapse of the Communist empire, walked to the Kremlin Palace of Congresses through a noisy crowd of protesters.

Russian Television showed the start of the meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the commander-in-chief of Commonwealth Armed Forces on the platform. The meeting adjourned after an hour to discuss demands that all Commonwealth leaders attend.

Speakers said they feared the 11 Commonwealth presidents could take decisions about their fate behind their backs.

Uncertainty caused by the vacillation of the new independent states was reflected in the grim atmosphere in the Kremlin chamber, once the scene of grand Communist Party congresses, and on the streets outside.

"(Former Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev and Commonwealth presidents should be jailed for the break-up of the Soviet Union," read a slogan on one of the dozens of red Communist banners above a crowd of several hundred people.

"Comrade officers, cool the stupidity of our politicians," read another banner.

Groups of women sang patriotic folk songs near the tower of the Kremlin's red-brick Trotsky Gate.

Most of the officers going into the meeting said the aim of the conference was to preserve united armed forces despite the collapse of the Communist empire.

But many must have been pessimists after declarations by powerful Ukraine that it will form its own army.

"We're talking here about the fate of the whole world, not only our motherland," said one officer. "The leadership of the armed forces is deciding its own problems not ours."

An officer from the Russian-dominated army in Lithuania, scheduled to leave the now-independent country in two years, complained: "The army in the Baltics has been abandoned. No one seems to need it any more, no one looks after it."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin called on the country's armed forces Friday to preserve the peace and told officers that the Soviet Union they had once served could never be revived.

"I, as Russian president elected by the people, appeal to you... to preserve civil calm. It is easy enough to start a fire. It is

far more difficult to extinguish it," he told the Kremlin meeting.

"The August coup made the future existence of a united state impossible," Mr. Yeltsin said, referring to last year's three-day takeover by hardline Communists.

Mr. Yeltsin also announced that, as Russian president, he was taking over direct control of contingents of the former Soviet army based in former Soviet republics that did not join the 11-nation Commonwealth.

Until now these formations, based in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Georgia, have come under control of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Yeltsin Friday cancelled his own decree ordering the creation of a law and order super-ministry, TASS News Agency said.

A court set up by his Russian government to prevent abuses of the constitution ruled Tuesday he must disband the month-old ministry.

Mr. Yeltsin decreed on Dec. 19 the Interior Ministry and the domestic intelligence wing of the former KGB security police would be combined in a new Russian Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs.

The ministry was also intended to encompass an umbrella security service for inter-republican security matters.

But the Russian Constitutional Court unanimously found the combination of ministries infringing the division of powers between executive, legislative and judiciary, and also between government and administration, TASS News Agency said.

## Miyazawa apologises for wartime crimes

SEOUL (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologised to South Koreans Friday for one of Japan's most shameful wartime crimes — the forced prostitution of tens of thousands of Korean women for its battlefield soldiers.

Mr. Miyazawa, in the first address to South Korea's National Assembly by a Japanese leader, promised to teach wartime history, much of it regarded as taboo at home, to Japan's sheltered youth.

Some 800 demonstrators protested outside the assembly as Mr. Miyazawa tried to convey the message that almost 50 years after Japan ended its harsh 1910-45 subjugation of the Korean peninsula, the former oppressor was a trustworthy partner.

Protesters burned Japanese flags to draw attention to the fate of tens of thousands of Korean women forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese troops up to and during World War II.

In a show of emotion, some slashed their fingers to scrawl bloody demands for compensation from Japan for the suffering of the "comfort women" and countless Koreans forced to work as labourers by Japanese.

"Recently, the issue of the 'comfort women' in the service of the Japanese Imperial Army has come to light," a solemn Miyazawa told the assembly.

"I cannot help feeling acutely distressed over this, and express my sincerest apology," he said. Just days before Mr. Miyazawa arrived in Seoul, reports surfaced in Tokyo proving what the Japanese government had long denied — that its army rounded up Korean teenagers and women to serve as forced prostitutes for frontline soldiers.

Historians estimate the military's "comfort women," who included adolescent girls, numbered from 100,000 to 200,000 and 80 per cent were Koreans.

Mr. Miyazawa made no mention of compensation for the victims, along with the million Koreans seized as forced labourers.

At a news conference earlier, Mr. Miyazawa said his government would heed the ruling of a Tokyo court where three former Korean comfort women filed the first suit of its kind demanding compensation from the Japanese government.

South Korean officials said Mr. Miyazawa, who at a banquet Thursday apologised for Japan's harsh colonial rule, strived to make amends in talks with President Roh Tae-Won Friday. Mr. Roh demanded Tokyo probe full details of its wartime brutality.

"Prime Minister Miyazawa expressed apologies in various ways and we counted as many as eight remarks of apology and regret," a Roh spokesman said.

Mr. Miyazawa, making his first overseas trip since becoming premier in November, said in his speech it was time for Japan to begin teaching the facts of the past war to its children.

## U.N. officers head for Yugoslav front line

BELGRADE (R) — U.N. military officers were sent to Yugoslavia's warfront Friday for the first time in the six-month conflict.

Despite sporadic shooting and new tension between antagonists Croatia and Serbia, the ceasefire held Friday.

The first four liaison officers set out from Belgrade to take up positions on the Serbian side of the front line. A team of up to 25 was also expected to leave the Croatian capital Zagreb for deployment on the Croatian side.

The "blueberet" officers could be the forerunners of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force which the United Nations hopes to deploy if the ceasefire holds between Croatian forces and Serb irregulars backed by federal troops.

"We are here to liaise between the two parties, to assist them to maintain the ceasefire," said Lieutenant-Colonel Gumar Postup, the deputy head of the mission.

The truce, in force since Jan. 3, held in most places despite scattered violations.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Croatian militia fired mortars and artillery on villages in eastern Croatia, close to the border with Serbia, and opened fire around Nova Gradiska in central Croatia. The reports were not confirmed.

The U.N. mission plans to send a total of about 50 military liaison officers to the front to observe the ceasefire. This will include the southern Croatian town of Knin, controlled by Serbs, opposed to the deployment of U.N. troops on its territory.

Tensions appear to be rising between Serbia and Croatia over border disputes, just two days after Croatia and its northern neighbour Slovenia won international recognition as independent states from about 30 countries.

Serbia and its allies, which oppose the break-up of Yugoslavia, have bitterly criticised recognition.

## Aristide, other Haitian officials to meet with OAS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the Communist prime minister are to meet here Saturday with the Organisation of American States (OAS), the OAS has announced.

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares invited Mr. Aristide, moderate Communist leader Rene Theodore, and other Haitian officials, including leading parliamentarians, for closed-door talks, said OAS spokesman Miguel Frankendorf.

Mr. Aristide and Mr. Theodore have accepted, and the OAS was awaiting word from the others, Mr. Frankendorf said. The meeting is to be with officials of the body which is trying to restore Mr. Aristide, ousted in a Sept. 30 military coup.

A meeting of the OAS's 34 permanent representatives is set for next Tuesday to discuss the three-month-old Haitian crisis.

Mr. Aristide, in Atlanta, Thursday, vowed to resume control of the world leaders for their help.

"I'm sure I will be back in Haiti. There is no doubt," Mr. Aristide said at a news conference at the Carter Center. The 38-year-old activist Roman Catholic priest was in Atlanta to attend a seminar called by former President Jimmy Carter to discuss possible solutions to eight civil wars around the world.

The OAS talks are expected to discuss efforts to get Mr. Theodore installed as the country's prime minister to pave the way for Mr. Aristide's return. Haitian politicians have said the military will never accept a Communist as prime minister.

Mr. Theodore was an outspoken critic of Mr. Aristide and has promised to set up a broad-based government of "national salvation," including rightist groups, if he is ratified. Applauded by OAS and U.S. officials, he is considered a moderate and says he favours a market-oriented economy.

## 2 monkeys take residence in Cairo Zoo

CAIRO (AP) — Two rare Pygmy Marmoset monkeys from the Amazon have taken residence in Cairo Zoo. The monkeys, a gift from Swedish King Carl Gustaf XVI, live in an air-conditioned wooden box at the zoo to get familiarised with weather and environment.

The leader of the Serbian-controlled area of Slavonia, Baranja and western Srem in Croatia complicated the issue by saying he would oppose the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army under the U.N. peace plan.

"The inhabitants of this region are... absolutely against the withdrawal of the Yugoslav people's army from the territory of this region until a final solution is found," Goran Hadzic, the area's prime minister, told the daily newspaper Dnevnik.

"We feel we have been betrayed by the Yugoslavians we swore by," he said in the interview published Friday, opening a potential rift with Serbia by criticising its foreign policy.

Serbs and Croats, the two biggest nationalities in the Balkan state created in 1918, are old rivals whose relations have steadily worsened since they both elected nationalist leaders in 1990.

At least 6,000 people have been killed in fighting since Croatia declared independence last June. Most of the 600,000 Serbs among Croatia's 4.7 million inhabitants want to stay in Yugoslavia.

Italian President Francesco Cossiga was due to arrive in Croatia later Friday on the first visit by a head of state since it won international recognition.

Meanwhile, an international team of experts has accused the Yugoslav army of colluding with Serbian forces in a systematic campaign of terror in Croatian war zones, the Guardian newspaper said Friday.

Costa Rican actress Julia Roberts — "a tacky tinkerbell" — and singer Wynonna Judd — "a shaggy songbird of country kitsch. She looks like Hulk Hogan (a wrestler) in sequins." Actress Delta Burke, formerly of the television series *Designing Women* — "is it Scarlett O'Hara or just plain Tara? An antebellum smoozy." Actress Tatyana Dalry, of the *Cagney and Lacey* television series — "What can I say? Tatyana is a train wreck in technicolor." Film director and actress Jodie Foster, of the film *The Silence of the Lambs* — "Her fashion sense would look better on Hannibal Lecter (the film's villain)." Singer Carly Simon — "little orphan Annie meets Mr. Ed (a television series horse). A fright-wigged fiasco of the Carly kind." Actress Faye Dunaway — "Faye's frothy fashion follies make her the depressing diva of designer dress." Actress Kathy Bates — "At play in the basement of K. Mart (a chain of discount stores). Ferried." British actress Jane Seymour — "Miss Seymour should wear more. She's a palesey peepshow on parade." Dame Edna Everage, impersonated by Australian comedian Barry Humphries — "half John Desmond, half Elton John, the dame from down under is a mauve-topped monstrosity."

OSLO (R) — Like a horror film, things got out of control after a Norwegian couple bred rats at home to sell to a pet shop. They had to flee when the rats bred and bred... The shop went bankrupt, triggering a rodent population explosion when the couple decided to keep 10 to 15 unspayed rats, including a pregnant female which escaped from her cage. Before long, more than 1,000 rats were roaming freely in the house, gnawing the furniture and forcing the couple to move out of their bedroom and sleep on a mattress in the living room — at the time a rat-free zone. "The man has personal problems and lost control," said police officer Klaus Henningsen. "Instead of seeking help, he started feeding the rats." Just after New Year the invaders captured the living room and the unsuccessful piper fled. Most of the rats were roaming freely, but several hundred were stuffed in small cages with up to 40 in each, where they had started eating each other through hunger. On Tuesday they were all gassed to death.

MOSCOW (AP) — Faced with rising costs of restaurants and taxi fares, Moscow prostitutes have been forced to raise their prices tenfold since price controls were lifted two weeks ago, a news agency said. A "merry night" now costs 1,000 rubles (compared with 100 rubles two weeks ago), the Russian Information Agency (RIA) said, adding that prostitutes who charge dollars and solicit Western clients raised their fees from \$100 per night to \$300. The average Russian salary is about 960 rubles per month, according to statistics released recently from the Russian Labour Ministry. One ruble is worth about one U.S. cent at the current tourist exchange rate. Prostitutes have been steadily charging more during the last six months. The news service did not elaborate on why prostitutes serving dollar customers only raised their fees threefold.

MOSCOW (AP) — The prime minister of Mongolia said that he and his government would resign after more than a year in power because of criticism over economic reforms, the TASS News Agency reported. In a dispatch from Ulan-Bator, the Mongolian capital, TASS said the resignation of Prime Minister Bashiyn Byambasuren still must be accepted by the parliament, known as the Great People's Hural. TASS provided no other details.

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## Council to stop Gamsakhurdia thrust

MOSCOW (R) — Ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia mustered armed followers in the west of his country Friday and the ruling military council moved to cut off any possible advance on the capital, Tbilisi.

Georgian officials in Moscow said they believed up to a fifth of the country supported Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who was driven out of his parliament stronghold by rebel gunmen two weeks ago.

"Some conditions exist for a civil war. If it comes to fighting, the consequences are unimaginable," deputy Georgian mission chief Georgy Volski said. "It would be a tragedy."

Reports from Tbilisi suggested Mr. Gamsakhurdia was in his stronghold of Zugdidi.

He returned there Thursday and local radio said he held a huge rally in the town. Interfax News Agency Thursday said Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who spent over a week in exile in Armenia, had called for an armed march on Tbilisi.

TASS News Agency said the night had been largely peaceful in

Tbilisi. Gunmen fired on a petrol station, but a curfew was successfully enforced.

Mr. Volski said Tengiz Kitovani, head of the National Guard, one of two armed forces that make up the council, had sent forces to occupy key positions west of Tbilisi to head off any advance.

TASS News Agency said detachments of the other groups, the Mkhedromi (horsemen), had been sent to the city of Kutaisi, also to the west, to enforce a curfew.

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## Deaths reported in Uzbek price riot

MOSCOW (R) — Several people have been killed in a protest in the Uzbek capital Tashkent over sharp price rises, TASS News Agency reported Friday.

TASS said the protest was organised by students who were angered by the authorities' failure to provide higher living allowances to compensate for the price rises.

"Massive disturbances began in the student residents' area, which claimed human victims," TASS said.

The agency uses the phrase "human victims" when people have died.

These were the first reported deaths since a wave of price rises at the first of the year, designed to transform the planned economy into a market system.

A special commission headed by Uzbek Prime Minister Abdul Khasim Mintalov will investigate the riot, TASS said.

Uzbekistan joined Russia and other republics in the former Soviet Union this month in raising prices on consumer goods.

MANILA (R) — Three gunmen kidnapped a leading U.S. businessman in the Philippine capital Friday and demanded a large ransom for his release, sources close to investigators said.

The gunmen grabbed Michael Barnes, vice-president and general manager of Philippine Geothermal Inc., as he was being driven to his office in Manila, police said.

"They are saying for dollars, a lot of dollars," one source said. The source, who asked not to be named, did not specify how much the kidnappers wanted.

No group has claimed responsibility but police were investigating the possible involvement of dissident soldiers or Communist guerrillas, the sources said.

"They all pointed the guns at Barnes and the driver. And then they said: 'Don't move. We know you. Come with us,'" said company spokesman Rex Lores.

Mr. Barnes, 41, from Long Beach, California, is a director of the American Chamber of Commerce to which about 600 businessmen belong, most of them U.S. citizens.

Police said Mr. Barnes's car was approaching the driveway of a building housing his office in the Makati Financial Centre when it was hijacked by a van coming from an adjacent car park.

The men, armed with pistols and an assault rifle, took Mr. Barnes and sped off in the van, leaving his driver in the car.

The source said the kidnappers' methods suggested the abduction could be the work of right-wing army extremists linked to six coup attempts against President Corason Aquino.

The kidnapping may be part of the army dissidents' plan to destabilise the government as the Philippines prepares for elections in May to choose a successor to Aquino, they said.

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Philippine Geothermal in August received letters from Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas warning they would kidnap company officials if the firm did not pay "revolutionary taxes," the sources said.

The company turned the letters over to police.

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